

February 27, 2026

**Testimony on:** SB781 – CHERISH Our Communities Act

**Submitting:** Jaylyn Manzanares

**Position:** Favorable

**Hearing Date:** March 3, 2026

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Jaylyn Manzanares. I am 16 years old and an 11th-grade student at Bladensburg High School. I live in Bladensburg, in District 47. I am part of the Youth Leadership Academy with CHISPA Maryland. I am writing to express my support for SB 781, the CHERISH Our Communities Act.

I care about this issue because asthma is a serious problem for many people, especially children whose lungs are still developing. Every day, I see children playing outside and enjoying the beauty that nature offers. What hurts to know is that many kids are unable to do so. The fear of asthma is real, and living with the uncertainty of when an attack might happen is terrifying.

I know many people who are forced to live with asthma. I've heard their stories and can never imagine being in their shoes. This is why I respectfully ask for your support for SB 781, the CHERISH Act. Your support can make a difference, so we can focus on having clean air and safe places to play and work.

Thank you for your time and for representing our community. I appreciate what you do for our community and its people.

Sincerely,

Jaylyn Manzanares.