



**Testimony SENATE BILL 94  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
January 29, 2026  
Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Finance Committee:

The Community Development Network of Maryland (CDN) is the voice for Maryland's community development sector and serves nearly 200 member organizations. CDN—focuses on small affordable housing developers, housing counseling agencies and community-based non- profits across the state of Maryland. The mission of CDN is to promote, strengthen and advocate for the community development sector throughout Maryland's urban, suburban and rural communities.

As drafted SB94 will eliminate the ability of these app-based payday lenders to steer individuals into tipping them for the 'service" of borrowing against their next paycheck.

Earned Wage Access (EWA) serves as an alternative to the high-interest debt traps that have historically plagued low-wage workers. By allowing employees to access capital they have already earned—rather than borrowing against future, unearned income. To truly empower workers, however, the regulatory framework must be strengthened to ensure these services remain affordable, transparent, and strictly prohibited from evolving into a new form of unaffordable credit.

We support strengthening SB94 with the following amendments that are needed to protect low-wage workers and struggling families from unaffordable credit.

- Limit the total maximum monthly cost, covering all loans and all costs (expedite fees, subscriptions, etc.), to \$10 month.
- Make it easier to exercise fee-free options while ensuring the funds reach individuals in a timely manner.
- Limit repeat efforts to debit a bank account to collect.
- Make it simpler to cancel subscriptions or repay a loan.
- Require annual reports on costs, usage, and other information.

We ask that you include these amendments on the final bill. If amended as proposed above, we support SB94.

Submitted by Claudia Wilson Randall, Executive Director, Community Development Network