

January 28, 2026

Chair Pamela Beidle
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB22/HB226 – Department of Disabilities - Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations - Establishment

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Fello, we write in support of ***SB22/HB226 – Department of Disabilities - Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations – Establishment.***

Across Maryland, Fello is building communities where people belong. With a team of more than 650 employees, Fello supports over 5,000 people with disabilities each year – creating opportunities that empower people to live the lives they choose. From advancing equity and respect to expanding access and connection, inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. One powerful way this comes to life is through Fello Communities: beautiful, safe, and accessible rental housing that offers choice and stability for residents across income levels, from affordable to market-rate homes.

SB22/HB226 authorizes the Maryland Department of Disabilities to develop affordable and accessible housing programs for people with disabilities and to establish affiliated nonprofit foundations to support these initiatives, while also increasing awareness of and access to employment, education, housing, transportation, recreation, health care, and other aspects of daily life. The bill allows these foundations to raise funds, promote programs, and expand services, while requiring ethical guidelines, conflict-of-interest safeguards, annual reporting, and independent audits to ensure transparency and accountability, supplementing state funding.

SB22/HB226 addresses critical housing needs, fosters public-private partnerships to extend program reach, and strengthens oversight to ensure responsible resource management, representing an important step toward expanding housing access and equity for Marylanders with disabilities.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB22/HB226.

Sincerely,


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