



9420 Key West Ave., #400

Rockville, MD 20850

Phone: 301-637-0730

Fax: 301-637-0739

www.cmrocks.org

Testimony in favor of SB69
Removing Nonprofit Navigator Sunset

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
April 7, 2026

My name is Sarah Basehart, and I am the Executive Director of Community Reach of Montgomery County, our mission is to empower those who are underserved in Montgomery County by addressing their essential needs to enhance the overall well-being of our community. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 69, *Removing Nonprofit Navigator Sunset*.

Nonprofit organizations like ours are critical partners in delivering human services, housing assistance, healthcare, food access, and other supports that complement the work of government programs. Yet the system through which nonprofits must navigate grants is often complex, time-consuming, and difficult to manage without specialized staff. At Community Reach, nearly 75% of our budget comes from government and foundation grants, and while we are fortunate to have a grant manager on staff, the breadth of opportunities, shifting requirements, and administrative hurdles can overwhelm even the most experienced professionals.

The Nonprofit Organizations Navigator, established in 2025, has already proven to be an invaluable resource by providing essential support to nonprofits across Maryland. Our organization recently engaged with the Navigator to explore new funding opportunities including searching within funding platforms we cannot afford to access. This support not only saved our staff significant time but also increased our ability to identify grants aligned with our local community needs. We were also thrilled to see the database that the Navigator is establishing so we can access state grant announcements in one location.

Sunsetting this position in 2027, as originally enacted, would undo meaningful progress and recreate barriers for thousands of nonprofits across Maryland.

We strongly support removing next year's sunset terminating the Navigator position after June 30, 2027, and establishing this as a permanent position in the Department of Commerce starting this year.

Community Reach of Montgomery County urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 69.