

TO: The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Mary Clapsaddle
Director, State Affairs

DATE: February 12, 2020

On behalf of Johns Hopkins University and Medicine, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **SB 387 – Housing - Community Development Program Act – Funding**.

The Maryland General Assembly demonstrated leadership in the area of community development during the 2018 session with the establishment of the Community Development Program, Fund, and Board in the Department of Housing and Community Development. That bill envisions a flexible program that can support a range of efforts – operating and capital expenditures – to improve the buildings and social environment in challenged areas across the state.

Johns Hopkins is committed to the neighborhoods in and around our footprints – working collaboratively with neighborhood associations, foundations, and other employers – to strengthen and revitalize areas that are affected by disinvestment. This commitment is evident in Eager Park, the Central Baltimore Partnership, Station North and other areas. To the extent that state funds are available to leverage private investment in creative and flexible ways, long-standing issues in challenged communities can be addressed. It is particularly valuable that program funds are available for “soft” expenses, like housing counseling, community organizing, and community services, not just for bricks and mortar.

Having a dedicated source of on-going funding for this program will be key to its success. For these reasons, Johns Hopkins urges a **favorable committee report on SB 387**.

cc: Members, Budget and Taxation Committee
Senator Adelaide C. Eckardt