



Testimony SB 387 –
Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act Funding
February 12, 2019
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Guzzone and the Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee:

We urge this committee to vote a favorable report for SB 387 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding SB 387 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund which was created during the 2018 legislative session.

The funding will be critical operating dollars to use for community development organizations to apply for affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, housing and financial counseling, small business development, community services, and more. The funding source is \$5 million from surplus of the Unclaimed Property Fund.

Housing Options & Planning Enterprises, Inc. (H.O.P.E.) is an HUD-approved agency, serving Prince Georges and Charles Counties. In this capacity, we provide financial counseling, homebuyers education and loss mitigation services. We also, provide housing for special needs, seniors (Section 202 and 811 – HUD housing programs) and low-income individuals (households with 60% AMI). Operating dollars are necessary to provide these services, many sources of funding are restrictive and cannot be used towards operating expenses (overhead, rent and etc.)

Please vote a favorable report for SB 387

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna Hurley
Executive Director