



*Southern Maryland
Minority Chamber of Commerce
Foundation*

**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:

The Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc. (SMMCOCFDN) requests 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.

The SMMCOCFDN is an All-Volunteer organization created to make the community a better place for all. We support, educate, and serve the minority business, farming, entrepreneurial community in Southern Maryland, which includes the southern parts of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties and all of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties. SMMCOCFDN could have a greater impact, if additional operating funding was available.

Please vote a favorable report for SB 387.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doris J. Cammack-Spencer

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Executive Director