



City of Havre de Grace

711 PENNINGTON AVENUE, HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND 21078
WWW.HAVREDEGRACEMD.COM

410- 939-1800
410- 575-7043

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health, and Government Operations Committee
Room 241 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Position: Support With Amendment

Re: House Bill 1539

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

The City of Havre de Grace supports House Bill 1539 with an amendment. The bill, as written, would standardize state grants by requiring all state and local grants to be administered in accordance with specified federal guidance.

The City of Havre de Grace is a historic municipality located in Harford County, Maryland, with a population of approximately 15,000 Citizens. The City takes pride in the hundreds of volunteers who help make Havre de Grace a diverse, forward-thinking community and tourism destination. According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the City of Havre de Grace has over 100 non-profit organizations operating within city boundaries. In fiscal year 2020, the City government allocated \$770,000 to local non-profits, which provided funding towards service organizations, civic groups, museums, and emergency services. The City also hosts and provides support for dozens of events each year that benefit local non-profits, including the areas only half-marathon and Harford County's first and only gay pride event.

Almost all of the non-profit groups in the City are volunteer-based and have limited staff and depending significantly on grant funding. While well-intended, if passed HB 1539 as currently written, would create an undue burden on many of the non-profits located in the City of Havre de Grace and across Maryland. Organizations with small staffs would not be able to conform to the proposed legislation—resulting in several unintended consequences, which would include the loss of thousands of dollars that go towards the benefit of local communities and possibly a greater reduction in non-profit staffing.

The City of Havre de Grace urges the committee to give HB 1539 a favorable report with an amendment that would exempt grants under \$250,000.