



ANNE ARUNDEL
CONNECTING TOGETHER



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February 15, 2021

**WE WANT TO LIVE IN OUR OWN HOMES
SUPPORT SB566/HB933**

"I bought my first home with the help of a housing trust fund in Annapolis. I worked hard to save the money, but needed help with the closing costs. I know so many others in my church who would benefit from this in the county."

–Grandmother and church leader, 2021

Dear Members of the Anne Arundel County State Delegation:

We ask for your support on SB 566/HB 933. Over the past three years, ACT, representing 26 congregations, non-profits, and small businesses across our county, has been *listening to our community*. Housing affordability is at the top of families' lists of concerns. Many of the thousands of people we have talked with have told us, over and over again, that they try to save, they work multiple jobs, but they cannot get over the hump of housing affordability as housing prices rise and rise in our county, outstripping the pace of wage increases. **A Housing Trust Fund is part of a package of solutions that give hardworking people a chance at housing security and affordability. This bill helps make their dream a reality.**

Working moms and dads are being left behind. Over four years, housing prices have surged over 10% across the county while wages have not kept up. Rents have increased accordingly. People are saving, but the realities of closing costs and other fees become too far a stretch to get on a housing ladder with a bottom rung that is ever being driven out of reach. We send the signal to them of never being able to fully be part of the American dream, no matter how hard they work. Included in this group are our teachers, law enforcement professionals, first responders, medical and dental technicians, and other middle class families who not only make our community whole, but have been essential to our community negotiating a pandemic. **We want them living in Anne Arundel County, but so many have told us they live farther away because it's too expensive to live here. Let's fix that.**

As leaders in the community, we want more of our citizens to feel fully invested and enjoy the hope of eventually getting on the housing ladder and own their own home. This bill helps provide a lifeline that maintains the integrity of our communities for the mutual benefit of everyone. **Support SB 566/HB 933.**

ACT MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Annapolis Friends Meeting
Asbury UMC, Annapolis
Broadneck Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis
Fresh Start Church, Glen Burnie
Joy Reigns Lutheran Church
New Life Fellowship, Hanover

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Annapolis
The United Church of Christ of Annapolis

A.A. Co. Muslim Council
Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church
Asbury Broadneck UMC
First Christian Community Church

Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church, Arnold
Kingdom Celebration Center, Odenton
St. Andrew By the Bay Roman Catholic Church
St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Annapolis

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park

NAACP A.A. Co. Branch
Bread and Butter Kitchen
Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian
New Creations Deliverance Ministries
Islamic Society of Annapolis
Light House, Annapolis
St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Annapolis
Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis

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