

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chairman
Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs
Committee
2W Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

SB 699 - Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The University of Maryland, Baltimore would like to voice its support of the Baltimore Regional Neighborhoods Initiative (BRNI) and its support of SB699 which provides for the extension of this program to 2026.

UMB has been a partner in the Southwest Partnership (SWP), which is comprised of seven neighborhoods and six anchor institutions. Through the continuation of BRNI, SWP could have the opportunity to access funding for such initiatives as the acquisition of iconic buildings in the community for redevelopment, small business loans for façade treatment and retail investment, and reclamation of vacant lots and the SWP area.

On behalf of the community development organizations that are working hard, along with anchor institutions, to restore vitality and economic health in Baltimore's neighborhoods, UMB asks your approval of SB699.

Sincerely,

James Hughes, MBA
Senior Vice President
Chief Enterprise & Economic Development Officer