

**HB 674: Landlord and Tenant – Stay of Eviction Proceeding for Rental Assistance Determination**

**Hearing of the House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 22, 2022**

**Position: Favorable**

Good afternoon. My name is Robin Moore. I have been residing in the New Northwood neighborhood in a large apartment complex in northeast Baltimore, MD for two years and three months.

In April 2020, my roommates moved out due to the fear of contracting COVID. Once they moved, I started contacting churches and the Salvation Army was informed that there was no money available to assist me.

My landlord has contacted me every month since April 2020 regarding the rent. I informed the management office in November 2020 that I was seeking assistance and would be approved through the BCCAP program. It was at this time that the manager informed me that they do not participate in this program and would not state why.

Should I be evicted, I have nowhere to live and would try to find a shelter. Due to the COVID outbreaks, I feel that living in a shelter would affect my health (I'm a cancer survivor). This would also affect my ability to find new housing should the eviction be placed on record. I am aware of one of the neighbors who is in the same situation that I am in.

Landlords should not refuse any type of assistance that an organization is offering them to assist tenants in catching up on their past due rent. I ask the Committee for a Favorable report on HB 674