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Budget and Taxation Committee

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Fair Practices and  
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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
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Testimony for Senate Bill 993  
Local Government Tort Claims Act - Definition of Local Government  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
March 17, 2022

Chairman Smith and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present **Senate Bill 993 Local Government Tort Claims Act - Definition of Local Government**. This bill would add Delmarva Community Services, Inc and the Maryland Association of Counties Pooled OPEB Trust Fund to the definition of “local government” under the Local Government Tort Claims Act.

Delmarva Community Services (DCS) has a large impact in our communities, offering transportation services, senior center services, meal deliveries, residential and day services for the disabled population, and more. DCS’s primary funding sources are federal and State grants and private donations. DCS advises that it receives less than 1% of its funding from Dorchester County.

The Maryland Association of Counties Pooled OPEB Trust Fund was created to assist and serve its members who may not have sufficient investments to merit establishing their own trusts with the necessary investment advisors and other associated personnel, services, and requirements. Current members of the trust include various smaller local governments and affiliated entities, such as libraries and sanitary commissions.

Being added to the Tort Claims Act would allow these two bodies to obtain less expensive insurance coverage, therefore allowing for them to have a larger impact with more focused funds. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 993.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt