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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 296 – Housing and Community Development – Whole-Home Repairs Act of 2023

February 12, 2023

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chairwoman Kagan, and members of the committee,

Across the Appalachian Region of Maryland, of which I proudly represent, we have a growing problem with blight, seniors not being able to age in their own homes, migration out of our area, and the inability to retain a workforce. This bill attempts to rectify these issues by making funds and grants available to local governments as well as non-government organizations. This will be tested through a pilot program.

The Appalachian Region of Maryland has a growing population of seniors who cannot take care of their own homes as they age. This leads to them having to leave their own homes for nursing communities. Their homes can fall into disrepair and are left to rot away with no one investing in them. This also leads to a large amount of emigration from the area which, in turn, means that there is a lack of a workforce in the area. Our region relies upon small businesses and the workforce already in place. Without a workforce, businesses will close, and my region will suffer.

SB 296 intends to solve these issues. Not only will it help with workforce retention, but it has the potential to add jobs for contractors in taking care of the blight issues around my area and potentially

others around the State should this go into full effect. It also will help seniors age in place, no longer having to leave their homes for somewhere that is unfamiliar and less comfortable.

Thank you very much and I ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike McKay

Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland

Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties