

**TESTIMONY OF ALICIA RYAN**

**HB 348  
FAVORABLE  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE – MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

TO: Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the House Appropriations Committee

My name is Alicia Ryan, and I am a College of Public Affairs student in the Policy, Politics, and International Affairs and Accelerated Master of Public Administration program at the University of Baltimore. I am also a participant in the Schaefer Center for Public Policy NextGen Leaders for Public Service Program. I am a resident of Baltimore City.

I am writing in support of HB 348.

Through the NextGen program, I received a paid internship with the Upton Planning Committee, Inc., and its affiliated organizations: The Natural Dye Initiative, Pennsylvania Avenue Main Street, and the UPC Westside CDC.

As a part of my internship, I worked with Ms. Wanda Best on a variety of grants and initiatives for the Upton Community and assisted with grant writing and submission, communicating with community members and other stakeholders, organizing and running community meetings, events, and service projects, as well as general administrative support.

As a result of this internship, I learned valuable information about how a community organization is run, how they interact with local, state, and federal government officials, how to write and submit grants, how to organize both small and large community events, and how to advocate for appropriations and legislative bond initiatives from government bodies. Most importantly, it taught me how to work with a variety of stakeholders from inside and outside of the community to best serve the residents of Upton. These skills will be invaluable after I graduate from the University of Baltimore and pursue a career in government or non-profit advocacy.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I urge you to return a favorable report on HB 348.

Alicia E. Ryan

