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Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate:

Diversified Housing Development, Inc. urges this committee to vote a favorable report for **SB953 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding**

SB 953 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund which was created in 2018. The funding is critical operating dollars for community-based organizations to use for affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, housing and financial counseling, small business development, community services, and more.

We are seeking \$5 million from the Unclaimed Property Fund after usual disbursements have been made.

Diversified Housing Development, Inc. is a Non-Profit Housing and Community Development organization located in Northwest Baltimore County. We offer Housing Counseling, Home Weatherization, and Housing Rehabilitation and Development, to low to moderate income families.

Our community is becoming more and more diverse and the needs for the services that we provide are growing. Yet the operating support that sustains our organization continues to decline. We have been unable to expand our staff due to lack of funding. This impacts the number of families that we can help due to staffing constraints. It also can begin to affect the quality of services we may be able to offer.

Our organization is also in a very different situation due to its location. Because of where we are located, we not only receive requests for service from Baltimore County residents, but we also receive many requests for help from Baltimore City, Carroll County and Howard County residents. These requests for services add to the strain that is placed on the agency.

Please vote a favorable report for SB 953.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shavaugn Jackson".

Shavaugn Jackson
Executive Director