



*ACS supports Howard County nonprofits in the achievement of their missions
because strong nonprofits improve the quality of life for all.*

County Resolution 84-20 – Howard County – Increase Transfer Tax

Position: Support

May 11, 2020

As Executive Director of the Association of Community Services (ACS), it is my privilege to offer testimony on behalf of our over 170 nonprofit member organizations and community advocates who work diligently on behalf of vulnerable populations in our community. I am offering this letter in support of CR 84-2020, which allows the County to increase the transfer tax rate to 1.5% and exempts moderate income housing units from being subject to the transfer tax as authorized by the Maryland General Assembly's House Bill (HB) 1454.

Funding generated from the increase in this tax will be allocated to critical needs in the County – capital projects for the Howard County Public School System and the Department of Recreation and Parks, housing programs for individuals and families with low incomes and people experiencing homelessness, and for the various needs of our fire department. Given that housing is of particular interest to many ACS members due to the clients we serve, we are particularly in support of expanding our revenue opportunities that will help us achieve our shared goals with the County of ending homelessness and supporting fellow residents with low incomes.

Howard County is one of the wealthiest counties in Maryland and the significant disparities between income and costs of living that made it challenging to live in Howard County long before the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, we had a shortage of over 5,000 units; this need will certainly increase. Financial support for the work of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is imperative in meeting this critical need for stable housing for the many people who have and will soon have low and moderate incomes.

We appreciate your consideration of our request that you give a favorable vote CR 84-2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Driessen
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Executive Director