



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

## **Ho. Co. 26-20 - Howard County – Transfer Tax – Rate Increase Authorization**

### **Position: Support**

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 Ho.Co. 26-20, which authorizes Howard County to increase the transfer tax rate.

Howard County is one of the wealthiest counties in Maryland, and yet, there are significant disparities between income and costs of living that make it challenging for the 22% of households (24,000 households) earning less than \$60,000 to afford housing. With a shortage of well over 5,000 units, we will need to create new and larger funding streams if we are to create the doorknobs necessary to house our lower-income workers and families. Increasing the transfer tax rate and allocation of the additional funds will support the work of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in their efforts to meet this critical need.

Your support of this legislation provides tangible evidence that state and local government are committed to working together to address the affordable housing shortage that plagues our community. Increasing the revenue stream to DHCD will allow them the opportunity to make real progress in creating housing that is affordable to moderate and low-income families in our community.

We appreciate your consideration and request that you vote favorably for Ho.Co. 26-20.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joan Driessen*

Joan Driessen  
Executive Director