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January 16, 2025

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership Support for SB 154 - Access to Counsel in Evictions – Task Force Termination and Special Fund**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership (BRHP), I'm writing to express our support for SB 154 to make permanent funding for the Access to Counsel in Evictions (ACE) Special Fund.

BRHP is a non-profit organization that expands housing choices for low-income families who have historically been excluded from housing in well-resourced neighborhoods by helping them access and transition successfully to safe, healthy, and economically vibrant communities. As the Regional Administrator for the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program, BRHP currently provides over 4,300 low-income families rental assistance in the form of Housing Choice Vouchers coupled with counseling support for families as they move from areas of concentrated poverty to areas of opportunity in Baltimore City and the five surrounding counties.

BRHP support SB 154 to make permanent the funding for the Access to Counsel in Evictions (ACE) Special Fund to support Marylanders' right to access to legal representation in eviction proceedings, helping to ensure that tenants have a fair eviction proceeding and keeping more Maryland families in their homes. The efforts of the ACE Program have been very successful, with the most recent Report of the Access to Counsel in Evictions Task Force indicating approximately 88% of clients who wanted to stay in their homes were able to do so at the closure of their case. The impact of this program is clear, and for these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report from the committee.

Sincerely,

Adria Crutchfield  
Executive Director