



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Senator Clarence K. Lam, Senate Delegation Chair
Howard County Delegation
420 Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, House Delegation Chair
Howard County Delegation
101 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT: Ho. Co. 34-20 – Howard County Residential Sprinkler System

Dear Senate Chair Lam and House Chair Atterbeary,

I am proud to support for Ho. Co. 34-20, which would provide funding for the Athelas Institute, Inc. to purchase sprinkler systems for two homes purchased as residences for adults with developmental disabilities.

The Athelas Institute has provided specialized programs and services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1976. This facility provides residential services in community integrated homes to individuals living in Howard County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Carroll County based on service needs and availability. At these residences, individuals can receive skills training, daily living assistance, social and recreational activities and other services that promote independence and community.

The two homes that Athelas purchased in West Friendship and Catonsville for residential use does not currently have sprinkler systems installed, as this provision was not required by law at the time of purchase. In order to be in compliance with the Maryland Department of Health's Office of Health Care Quality and Developmental Disabilities Administration, the addition of these sprinkler systems would now meet the mandated requirements and regulations listed in the respective Fire Codes of Howard and Baltimore Counties. The Athelas Institute intends to use the funds from this bond initiative to cover this unplanned but necessary expense in order for the homes to accept occupants

I urge your support for Ho. Co. 34-20 so that our neighbors with disabilities can continue to live safely and thrive in both Howard County and neighboring Baltimore County.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive