

Timestamp	Fiscal Year	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2024-05-09 11:40:10	FY25	Henry	Powell	Millersville	MD	21108	Yes		I support the local food bank and am disappointed to see so many needy families. I strongly urge you to increase funding support.	
2024-05-09 11:47:08	FY25	John	Tilden	Millersville	Maryland	21108	Yes		I support full funding for the next budget year for the Anne Arundel Food Bank. I generally give cash donations to the food bank several times a year and some of our family has volunteered there. As a compassionate society I think there are some things that need government support to be most effective and helping those dealing with food "insecurity" is just about the most basic of needs. Thanks for considering the opinion of this taxpayer and voter in your budget process.	
2024-05-09 12:25:38	FY25	Karma	ONeill	Annapolis	Maryland	21401	Yes		<p>Dear County Council members,</p> <p>My name is Karma O'Neill and I live in the City of Annapolis. I also manage a food delivery pantry that serves 265 households every week. We see senior citizens, couples and families with children ranging in age from new born babies to 18+. All of our food comes from the Anne Arundel County Food Bank and is distributed according to household size. It is of greatest importance that the County Executive wants to allocate \$2+ million in funding to the Food Bank and that number should be kept intact.</p> <p>Dedicated county funding for food access ensures that our under-resourced neighbors can access lean proteins and fresh produce as well as shelf-stable food items. Not only do these fresh, more nutritional food options help to determine better health outcomes, but also, they allow families to prepare meals that align with their cultural preferences and traditions.</p> <p>Week after week our neighbors tell us how the weekly food box enables them to survive in this world of rising grocery rates and inflation. By receiving the weekly food box they can extend their limited funds to purchase milk, eggs, bread and other living necessities. Many times we have had a food box recipient call us to say that the food box enabled them to get back on their feet after a set back and allowed them to pay other bills to keep the lights on and a roof over their head.</p> <p>Please consider retaining this budget line item so that all Anne Arundel County neighbors have access to nutritional food, resources, and opportunities.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Karma O'Neill</p>	

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2024-05-09 13:12:55	FY25	Carol	Green	Crofton	MD	21114	Yes		<p>I strongly urge the County Council to leave the \$2,073,909 in funding for the food bank intact in the FY25 budget. Please review this critical information which shows why funding for the food bank is critical:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-According to the most recent ALICE Report, of the 212,687 Anne Arundel County households, 35% (74,440) are below the ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) threshold. Twenty-eight percent are, however, deemed to be above the federal poverty line and therefore may not qualify for federal assistance programs, including SNAP benefits.</li> <li>-As a result of increasing housing costs, fluctuating food prices, and the end of the expanded Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, requests for emergency food assistance remain high and show no sign of abating.</li> <li>Currently, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank is providing an average of 48,000 instances of service every month.</li> <li>-Nourishing food provided free of any charge ensures that families don't have to choose between eating and paying the rent, heating their homes, paying for prescription medicines, or any number of other survival essentials.</li> <li>-Dedicated county funding for food access ensures that our under-resourced neighbors can access lean proteins and fresh produce as well as shelf-stable food items. Not only do these fresh, more nutritional food options help to determine better health outcomes, but also, they allow families to prepare meals that align with their cultural preferences and traditions.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	
2024-05-09 16:22:21	FY25	David	Hancock	Annapolis	MD	21409	Yes		<p>I strongly favor leaving the funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank intact as you review and modify the budget. I have seen first-hand the good that the Food Bank does. I volunteer every Friday morning to prepare food boxes for upwards of 260 families in need in Annapolis and without the Food Bank, we would not have much to distribute.</p> <p>I understand that the proposed amount for the Food Bank is about \$2.1 million; I hope that amount can be retained. This is a much-needed service for people in need.</p>	
2024-05-10 7:40:53	FY25	Norma	Farrell	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes		Please provide funding for the Food Bank.	

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2024-05-10 10:55:17	FY25	Brenton	Meade	West River	MD	20778	Yes		<p>Chair Pickard, Vice Chair Hummer, and Members of the Council,</p> <p>My name is Brenton Meade, and I am a senior at Broadneck High School. I am writing in opposition to the proposed funding for the Board of Education as the County Executive's proposed operating budget for Anne Arundel County Public Schools does not provide enough funding to support new schools and marginalized communities. The County Executive funded roughly 74% of the positions AACPS requested to support Severn Run High School and Two Rivers Elementary, meaning teachers, counselors, and other support staff will have to be reassigned from existing schools. As a result, course offerings will be reduced, class sizes will be larger, and because we, as the public, have no indication of the methodology behind the reassignment process, students at those new schools and existing schools may not have the experienced teachers needed for their success on standardized tests such as AP, IB, and MCAP exams. This county has boasted its work in reducing the student to counselor ratio to combat the youth mental health crisis, but the lack of funding for counselors and other support staff will harm the progress we've made in that regard.</p> <p>Additionally, the County Executive did not fund the additional special education and english language learner teachers that the school system requested. These students and their families are often left behind by our school system, and as our county becomes more diverse and the cost of living goes up, it is important that these families have the resources they need to succeed. The cost-of-living crisis is also affecting our teachers and support staff, and they deserve the 2% mid-year COLA that the county executive's proposal does not fund.</p> <p>In conclusion, I acknowledge that the state government needs to do more to fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future so that there is less of a burden on local governments, including ours. But we send the wrong message when members of our state delegation fight for, secure, and tout state funds for the most visible aspects of the budget (athletic stadium improvements in the capital budget, for example) rather than the reforms needed for the Blueprint to be "sustainable." If budgets are a statement of our values, I refuse to believe that we value new buildings more than the staff needed to operate within them. I ask you to follow the lead of your colleagues in Montgomery County in demonstrating your commitment to public education, even if that means making difficult decisions.</p>	<a href="https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/24691/Operating%20and%20Capital%20Budget%20Testimony%20Addendum.pdf">https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/24691/Operating%20and%20Capital%20Budget%20Testimony%20Addendum.pdf</a>
2024-05-11 13:25:14	FY25	Jennifer	Lewis	Riva	MD	21140	Yes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- According to the most recent ALICE Report, of the 212,687 Anne Arundel County households, 35% (74,440) are below the ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) threshold. Twenty-eight percent are, however, deemed to be above the federal poverty line and therefore may not qualify for federal assistance programs, including SNAP benefits.</li> <li>- As a result of increasing housing costs, fluctuating food prices, and the end of the expanded Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, requests for emergency food assistance remain high and show no sign of abating.</li> <li>- Currently, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank is providing an average of 48,000 instances of service every month.</li> <li>- Nourishing food provided free of any charge ensures that families don't have to choose between eating and paying the rent, heating their homes, paying for prescription medicines, or any number of other survival essentials.</li> <li>- Dedicated county funding for food access ensures that our under-resourced neighbors can access lean proteins and fresh produce as well as shelf-stable food items. Not only do these fresh, more nutritional food options help to determine better health outcomes, but also, they allow families to prepare meals that align with their cultural preferences and traditions.</li> </ul>	

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2024-05-13 13:06:03	FY25	Vanessa	Carter	Odenton	Maryland	21113	No	Anne Arundel County Food Bank	<p>As you deliberate over the county budget and myriad needs of our citizens, please don't forget about the Anne Arundel County Food Bank.</p> <p>Due to increasing costs of housing, food and the end of certain government support programs, requests for emergency food assistance remain high and show no sign of slowing. The Anne Arundel County Food Bank is stepping into the gap by providing an average of 48,000 instances of service every month so that citizens need not choose between eating and paying rent, heating homes, paying for needed medications, and various other living essentials. Supporting the Food Bank means that neighbors in need can access lean proteins and fresh produce as well as shelf-stable food items. As well as allowing families to prepare meals that can reflect cultural preferences and traditions, these nutritional food options lead to better health outcomes and a healthier Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your careful consideration and support.</p>	
2024-05-13 17:09:07	FY25	Kurt	Svensen	ARNOLD	MD	21012	Yes		My testimony is provided as an attached file.	<a href="https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/24946/Testimony%20-%20FY25%20Proposed%20Budget.pdf">https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/24946/Testimony%20-%20FY25%20Proposed%20Budget.pdf</a>
2024-05-13 20:20:03	FY25	Leah	Paley	Crownsville	MD	21032	No	Anne Arundel County Food Bank		<a href="https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/24963/AACFB%20FY25%20AA%20Co%20Budget%20Request%20for%20Support%205.13.24.pdf">https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/24963/AACFB%20FY25%20AA%20Co%20Budget%20Request%20for%20Support%205.13.24.pdf</a>
2024-05-15 12:13:17	FY25	Bappa	Pal	Gambrills	MD	21054	Yes		The county needs to continue to support the Anne Arundel County food bank in its mission to alleviate food insecurity in our great county. Please approve this budget request for AACFB.	
2024-05-15 18:49:41	FY25	Julia	Blontz	PASADENA	Maryland	21122	Yes		Why are our children not important. Our Pasadena area needs a recreational center for our children. We waste money fixing up Ft. Smallwood Park not once but twice in less than 3 yrs. Wasted lights shine bright at North East football fields they money they could save, shutting lights off during the day and all hours of the night could pay for rental of a building. No one is trying to save our kids, our future. Protect them stop sending them loose with no guidance. You pay for their parents to go to the methadone clinics but in reality its the children who are getting the crappy end of the deal. Stop turning a check for our children who need a safe place to go, somewhere to go and meet friends, somewhere and someone to look up to. If we could save the salaries of police that are just sitting hours and days on end at post points so no one enters the Ft. Armstead entrance, this could pay for a few pool tables for our children to gather upon. Stop neglecting Pasadena children and give them a recreational center.	
2024-05-18 18:04:29	FY25	Florence	Schmidt	Pasadena	MD	21122	No	Pasadena Seventh Day Adventist Lifestyle Center	We sponsor a Food Pantry on Mondays. The support we receive from the Anne Arundel Food Bank is invaluable to us. Without their help. we would not be able to help our needy neighbors (clients). Due to the economy, the number of families we help has increased greatly, We used to support 40 to 50 families a month. Currently we support 110 to 130 families per month. I know there are many other Food Pantries in the county that obtain food from the AACO Food Bank. Please continue to fund the food bank at the least the amount they requested so that we can continue to help the needy families of our county. Thank you.	

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2024-05-24 15:04:21	FY25	Leonard	Raley	Odenton	MD	21113	Yes		Dear County Council Members, I am writing to express my thanks to you and our county executive for your past support of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank and to request your support for the proposed \$2+ million in their FY25 budget. I know there are many competing priorities in the budget and you have difficult decisions to make. I am a native Marylander and grew up in Southern Maryland where I was first exposed to families dealing with issues of hunger. As an adult, I moved to Appalachian Ohio some years later where I lived and worked for almost a decade. I came face to face with the dire consequences of food insecurity for families throughout the region. When I returned home to Maryland almost 20 years ago, I learned that in spite of living in an affluent county, there were thousands of families wondering how they were going to put adequate nourishing meals on the table. Upon learning this, I decided to make annual gifts in support of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. I grew up poor, but we were able to raise much of our own food, and hence, I never went hungry. I didn't go to school hungry, which, as a child, I probably took for granted. In my humble opinion, food security is a moral imperative, and I respectfully ask for your support for the proposed \$2+ million FY25 budget item for the Food Bank. Sadly, I have learned that the demands on the Food Bank are greater than ever and many of us who care deeply about this issue are counting on your leadership. Thank you for all that you do to serve the citizens of this wonderful county. Sincerely, Leonard Raley	
2024-05-25 9:09:22	FY25	Garry	Davenport	ODENTON	MD	21113	Yes		I would like to let those folks who plan the Food Banks Budget to give as much as possible. When I was young my family had severe food insecurity and we simply went hungry far too many times to count. I feel this is the worse thing that can happen to the young and the elderly. Being well fed makes all the other things associated with poverty easier to deal with. The young and elderly should never have to deal with this in this country. Remember these folks have their hands tied when dealing with Eviction, lack of heat, crime and in some cases family abuse or abandonment. These young folks grow up angry and the elderly just simply thinks that's the way it is.  God Bless	
2024-05-28 7:30:31	FY25	J. David	Vitchock	Millersville	Maryland	21108	Yes		Please pass the proposed funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. As a volunteer for a food pantry serving primarily the Severn, Odenton, Gambrills area for over ten years, I have seen need for assistance for the food insecure do nothing but continually increase over that period. The need has increased at a more rapid pace over the past several years due to the economy inflation. Until better times, the need is definitely there.	

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2024-06-04 15:47:02	FY25	Kathryn	Burke	Annapolis	Maryland	21401	Yes		<p>Hello, my name is Kady Burke. I am a resident of Anne Arundel County, and I am a supporter, volunteer and board member of Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN).</p> <p>I am writing in support of maintaining funding in the FY2025 budget for the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families' ongoing program with AIJN. This program provides vital legal and wraparound support services for immigrant children and youth in our county to ensure our county's immigrant youth and children have their basic and legal needs met.</p> <p>The majority of the children served in this program have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents – they are truly some of the most vulnerable children in our county.</p> <p>AIJN's model is unique and highly effective with a 96% success rate of favorable outcomes in court hearings. This success rate shows that the Anne Arundel County children and youth AIJN is supporting are eligible for legal relief and have a right to be in the United States. AIJN has provided services for over 700 residents of Anne Arundel County coming from 21 different countries. AIJN is addressing the two biggest barriers to legal representation– cost and transportation.</p> <p>Data show that as of this past October, there are 3,678 immigration cases pending in Anne Arundel County. Less than half of these cases have legal representation (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, 2023). Data also show that unaccompanied children with legal representation were seven times more likely to receive an outcome that allowed them to remain safely in the United States than those who were unrepresented (Vera Institute, 2022).</p> <p>A few months ago, AIJN celebrated their first client becoming a US citizen. After escaping violence and persecution in her home country, AIJN was able to provide funding for her case. She is now living safely with her family and plans to study to become a nurse. When asked about her hopes for her young children, she shared: "I hope they grow up without fear." That is a hope I share for her children and for all children in this county. Your investment in AIJN's ongoing work with the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families will help make that hope a reality. Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kady Burke</p>	

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2024-06-04 15:47:48	FY25	Morgan	Van Arsdall	Annapolis	MD	21409	Yes		<p>I am a resident of Anne Arundel County, and I am a long time supporter of and donor to Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN).</p> <p>Please maintain funding in the FY2025 budget for the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families' ongoing program with AIJN. This program provides vital legal and wraparound support services for immigrant children and youth in our county to ensure our county's immigrant youth and children have their basic and legal needs met.</p> <p>The majority of the children served in this program have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents – they are truly some of the most vulnerable children in our county.</p> <p>AIJN's model is unique and highly effective with a 96% success rate of favorable outcomes in court hearings. This success rate shows that the Anne Arundel County children and youth AIJN is supporting are eligible for legal relief and have a right to be in the United States. AIJN has provided services for over 700 residents of Anne Arundel County coming from 21 different countries. AIJN is addressing the two biggest barriers to legal representation– cost and transportation.</p> <p>Data show that as of this past October, there are 3,678 immigration cases pending in Anne Arundel County. Less than half of these cases have legal representation (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, 2023). Data also show that unaccompanied children with legal representation were seven times more likely to receive an outcome that allowed them to remain safely in the United States than those who were unrepresented (Vera Institute, 2022).</p> <p>A few months ago, AIJN celebrated their first client becoming a US citizen. After escaping violence and persecution in her home country, AIJN was able to provide funding for her case. She is now living safely with her family and plans to study to become a nurse. When asked about her hopes for her young children, she shared: "I hope they grow up without fear." That is a hope I share for her children and for all children in this county. Your investment in AIJN's ongoing work with the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families will help make that hope a reality. Thank you.</p>	



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2024-06-04 15:49:35	FY25	Eddie	Adkins	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes		<p>Hello, my name is Eddie Adkins. I am a resident of Anne Arundel County, and I am a board member of Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN). I am writing in support of maintaining funding in the FY2025 budget for the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families' ongoing program with AIJN. This program provides vital legal and wraparound support services for immigrant children and youth in our county to ensure our county's immigrant youth and children have their basic and legal needs met. The majority of the children served in this program have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents – they are truly some of the most vulnerable children in our county. AIJN's model is unique and highly effective with a 96% success rate of favorable outcomes in court hearings. This success rate shows that the Anne Arundel County children and youth AIJN is supporting are eligible for legal relief and have a right to be in the United States. AIJN has provided services for over 700 residents of Anne Arundel County coming from 21 different countries. AIJN is addressing the two biggest barriers to legal representation – cost and transportation. Data show that as of this past October, there are 3,678 immigration cases pending in Anne Arundel County. Less than half of these cases have legal representation (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, 2023). Data also show that unaccompanied children with legal representation were seven times more likely to receive an outcome that allowed them to remain safely in the United States than those who were unrepresented (Vera Institute, 2022). A few months ago, AIJN celebrated their first client becoming a US citizen. After escaping violence and persecution in her home country, AIJN was able to provide funding for her case. She is now living safely with her family and plans to study to become a nurse. When asked about her hopes for her young children, she shared: "I hope they grow up without fear." That is a hope I share for her children and for all children in this county. Your investment in AIJN's ongoing work with the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families will help make that hope a reality. Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Eddie Adkins</p>	



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2024-06-04 15:54:43	FY25	Mark	Glueck	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes		<p>Hello, my name is Mark Glueck. I am a resident of Anne Arundel County, and I am a supporter of Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN).</p> <p>I am writing in support of maintaining funding in the FY2025 budget for the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families' ongoing program with AIJN. This program provides vital legal and wraparound support services for immigrant children and youth in our county to ensure our county's immigrant youth and children have their basic and legal needs met.</p> <p>The majority of the children served in this program have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents – they are truly some of the most vulnerable children in our county.</p> <p>AIJN's model is unique and highly effective with a 96% success rate of favorable outcomes in court hearings. This success rate shows that the Anne Arundel County children and youth AIJN is supporting are eligible for legal relief and have a right to be in the United States. AIJN has provided services for over 700 residents of Anne Arundel County coming from 21 different countries. AIJN is addressing the two biggest barriers to legal representation– cost and transportation.</p> <p>Data show that as of this past October, there are 3,678 immigration cases pending in Anne Arundel County. Less than half of these cases have legal representation (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, 2023). Data also show that unaccompanied children with legal representation were seven times more likely to receive an outcome that allowed them to remain safely in the United States than those who were unrepresented (Vera Institute, 2022).</p> <p>A few months ago, AIJN celebrated their first client becoming a US citizen. After escaping violence and persecution in her home country, AIJN was able to provide funding for her case. She is now living safely with her family and plans to study to become a nurse. When asked about her hopes for her young children, she shared: "I hope they grow up without fear." That is a hope I share for her children and for all children in this county. Your investment in AIJN's ongoing work with the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families will help make that hope a reality. Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mark Glueck</p>	

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2024-06-05 13:00:53	FY25	Susan	Levine	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes		<p>Hello, my name is Susan Levine. I am a resident of Anne Arundel County and a board member of Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN).</p> <p>I am writing in support of maintaining funding in the FY2025 budget for the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families' ongoing program with AIJN. This program provides vital legal and wraparound support services for immigrant children and youth in our county to ensure our County's immigrant youth and children have their basic and legal needs met.</p> <p>The majority of the children served in this program have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents – they are truly some of the most vulnerable children in our County.</p> <p>AIJN's model is unique and highly effective with a 96% success rate of favorable outcomes in court hearings. This success rate shows that the Anne Arundel County children and youth AIJN is supporting are eligible for legal relief and have a right to be in the United States. AIJN has provided services for over 700 residents of Anne Arundel County coming from 21 different countries. AIJN is addressing the two biggest barriers to legal representation– cost and transportation.</p> <p>Data show that as of October 2023, there are 3,678 immigration cases pending in Anne Arundel County. Less than half of these cases have legal representation (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, 2023). Data also show that unaccompanied children with legal representation were seven times more likely to receive an outcome that allowed them to remain safely in the United States than those who were unrepresented (Vera Institute, 2022).</p> <p>A few months ago, AIJN celebrated their first client becoming a US citizen! After escaping violence and persecution in her home country, AIJN was able to provide funding for her case. She is now living safely with her family and plans to study to become a nurse. When asked about her hopes for her young children, she shared: "I hope they grow up without fear." That is a hope I share for her children and for all children in this county. Your investment in AIJN's ongoing work with the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families will help make that hope a reality. Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Susan Levine</p>	
2024-06-05 18:00:15	FY25	Kevin	Brown	Annapolis	Maryland	21401	Yes			<a href="https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/27684/2024%20Proposed%20Budget%20Testimony.pdf">https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/27684/2024%20Proposed%20Budget%20Testimony.pdf</a>

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2024-06-05 21:50:00	FY25	William	Barker	Annapolis	Maryland	21403	Yes		<p>I have been a supporter of Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN) since 2017. I am writing in support of maintaining funding in the FY2025 budget for the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families' ongoing program with AIJN. As you know, this program provides vital legal and wraparound support services for immigrant children and youth in our county to ensure our county's immigrant youth and children have their basic and legal needs met.</p> <p>AIJN's model is unique and highly effective with a 96% success rate of favorable outcomes in court hearings. AIJN has provided services for over 700 residents of Anne Arundel County who originated from 21 different countries. AIJN is addressing the two biggest barriers to legal representation— cost and transportation.</p> <p>Data show that as of October 2023, there were 3,678 immigration cases pending in Anne Arundel County. Fewer than half of these cases have legal representation (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, 2023). Data also show that unaccompanied children with legal representation were seven times more likely to receive an outcome allowing them to remain safely in the United States compared to those who were unrepresented (Vera Institute, 2022).</p> <p>Your investment in AIJN's ongoing work with the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families will help provide the opportunity for a lifetime of success for such vulnerable children. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Regards, William H. Barker</p>	
2024-06-09 16:22:52	FY25	Hildegard	Cardaci	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes		<p>Request that the funding for AIJN (Annapolis Immigration Justice Network) Be retained or raised for the upcoming Anne Arundel County budget this I a group that does amazing work with and for our immigrant neighbors.</p> <p>Thank you! Hildegard Cardaci 2000 Tundra Court Annapolis, MD 21401</p>	

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2024-06-11 13:29:40	FY25	Jessa	Coulter	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	Yes		<p>Hello, my name is Jessa Coulter, I am a resident of District 2, and I am the executive director of Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN).</p> <p>I am writing in support of maintaining funding in the FY2025 budget for the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families' ongoing program with AIJN. This program provides vital legal and wraparound support services for immigrant children and youth in our county to ensure our county's immigrant youth and children have their basic and legal needs met.</p> <p>The majority of the children served in this program have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents – they are truly some of the most vulnerable children in our county.</p> <p>AIJN's model is unique and highly effective with a 96% success rate of favorable outcomes in court hearings. This success rate shows that the Anne Arundel County children and youth AIJN is supporting are eligible for legal relief and have a right to be in the United States. AIJN has provided services for over 700 residents of Anne Arundel County coming from 21 different countries. AIJN is addressing the two biggest barriers to legal representation– cost and transportation.</p> <p>Data show that as of this past October, there are 3,678 immigration cases pending in Anne Arundel County. Less than half of these cases have legal representation (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, 2023). Data also show that unaccompanied children with legal representation were seven times more likely to receive an outcome that allowed them to remain safely in the United States than those who were unrepresented (Vera Institute, 2022).</p> <p>A few months ago, AIJN celebrated their first client becoming a US citizen. After escaping violence and persecution in her home country, AIJN was able to provide funding for her case. She is now living safely with her family and plans to study to become a nurse. When asked about her hopes for her young children, she shared: "I hope they grow up without fear." That is a hope I share for her children and for all children in this county. Your investment in AIJN's ongoing work with the Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families will help make that hope a reality. Thank you.</p> <p>Respectfully, Jessa Coulter</p>	

May 22, 2024

The Honorable Allison M. Pickard  
Chair, Anne Arundel County Council  
Arundel Center  
44 Calvert St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
allison.pickard@aacounty.org

Subject: Bill Nos. 44-24 & 53-24 (Permit Fee & CFCC Increases)

Dear Chairwoman Pickard,

The Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA) has reviewed Bills 44-24 and 53-24, regarding one-time and annual increases in permit fees and capital facility connection charges (CFCC). As the Council is aware, the County is facing a housing affordability crisis due to a multitude of factors.

The substantial fee increases proposed under Bill 44-24 will have an impact on all aspects of housing construction. From grading permit fees which are required for project ranging in size from the installation of a swimming pool to the construction of large subdivisions to trade permits which are required for electrical, plumbing, and HVAC installations within apartment buildings, single family homes, townhomes, or even an accessory dwelling unit. The increase in the CFCC will add to the cost of new construction. It is very important to note that for the construction of new residential units these fees are cumulative in nature, so the impacts will be felt most for the construction and reconstruction of residential units, regardless of the size of the development. By way of example, a new, 2,500 square foot single-family, detached dwelling can expect over \$10,000 worth of fee increases as a collective result of the proposed legislation. Builders will have no choice, but to pass these costs along to home buyers, which will only exacerbate the housing affordability issue in this County.

We are not only concerned with the one-time fee increases proposed in both pieces of legislation, but the automatic annual increases in these fees that are also proposed. No details on implementing the newly proposed cost index have been provided. It is critical to note that, while the fees may automatically increase, there is no allowance for a decrease.

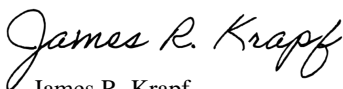
At this time, MBIA opposes Bill 44-24 and Bill 53-24 as we believe the timing of fee increases conflicts with the necessary goal of both increasing housing production and decreasing housing costs, to better serve the residents of Anne Arundel County.

As always, we appreciate the hard work that the Council puts into the legislative process. Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions about our comments or would like to discuss our position further, please do not hesitate to contact us or Lori Graf, Chief Executive Officer of the Maryland Building Industry Association.

Best regards,



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The Honorable Shannon Leadbetter (via email)

A.A. Co. MBIA Comment Letter Re: Bill Nos. 44-24 & 53-24