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March 11, 2020

Delegate Robbyn T. Lewis
& Co-Sponsors of HB1528
Maryland General Assembly
6 Bladen St. House Office Building
Room 304, Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Delegate Lewis:

Re: HB 1528 Health-In-All-Policies Council


I, Carlessia Hussein am submitting this letter in support of establishing a Council on Health in All Policies for the State of Maryland. Health is our most precious resource. It is affected by our birth and where we live, work, play and age. While the individual can control many of these factors, government can play a greater role to help keep us healthy. Health-In-All-Policies (HiAP) is the framework for galvanizing state efforts for increased collaboration, focused interventions and measurable outcomes across and between State agencies.

HiAP dates back to the 19th century when inciteful people demonstrated how living conditions, clean water, sanitation and food safety had a huge impact on disease. The World Health Organization declared health as a human right and urged collaboration among different sectors of society to ensure health for the people. While some programs in the US adopted the concept of collaboration across programs, California was the first in 2010, to set in place a formal state level entity to promote an HiAP framework. Many states have followed suit.

The current national concern about the spread of COVID-19, is the perfect example of when an organized state framework to address a health crisis could be mitigated more efficiently if cross sectors of government already had an effective collaborative process in place.

It is the time for Maryland to implement a Health-In-All-Policies framework.

Sincerely,


Carlessia A. Hussein, RN, Dr. Ph.