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**TESTIMONY OF BETSY KRIEGER, CO-FOUNDER,  
BE THE CHANGE BMORE,  
IN SUPPORT OF SB 172, THE MARYLAND HEALTH EQUITY  
RESOURCE ACT  
JANUARY 27, 2021**

On behalf of Be the Change, an organization of several hundred activists living primarily in Baltimore City and County, I am writing to you because of our concern about health care inequality in Maryland.

Our group is dedicated to reducing inequality in all its forms, and the difference in the availability and quality of healthcare among Maryland residents is one of the areas where inequality is most evident.

Fortunately, House Bill 463/Senate Bill 172 can address this problem. It would create Health Equity Resources Communities in Maryland to focus health resources in the neighborhoods where they are needed the most. These resources would be paid for by a one penny on the dollar increase on the alcohol beverage sales tax, imposed first on liquor stores, and two years later on bars and restaurants. As we know, liquor stores have done well in the pandemic, and adding this small increase will not hurt their businesses.

HB 463/SB 172 will address inequities by race, ethnicity, disability, and geography and ensure that every Marylander, regardless of who they are or where they live, has access to the healthcare they deserve.