



MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION
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February 2, 2021

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 52 – Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021)

Dear Chair Kelley:

The Maryland Health Care Commission (the “Commission”) is submitting this letter of support for SB 52 – Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021).

This bill requires the State designated exchange to participate in a certain advisory committee, maintain a certain data set, and provide data under certain circumstances. It authorizes the State designated exchange to use certain data to improve outcomes for patients. The bill also establishes the Maryland Commission on Health Equity to employ a health equity framework by taking a collaborative approach to improve health outcomes, reducing health inequities in the State, and incorporating health considerations into broad-based decision making.

This bill addresses the core factors contributing to health disparities among minority communities (i.e., Black and Brown communities) in Maryland specifically, and the country as a whole, due to systemic racism. Under this bill, the Maryland Commission on Health Equity will use a committee form to develop a data set in consultation with State designated exchange that is maintained by the State designated exchange. The data set will include All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) data, hospital discharge data, and data from other sources to monitor health equity for racial and ethnic minority populations in Maryland. This bill will reduce the difficulty of retrieving healthcare data by race and ethnicity. For these reasons, the Commission support SB 52.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Ben Steffen, Executive Director, Maryland Health Care Commission at ben.steffen@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Pollack
Chair

Ben Steffen
Executive Director

cc: Senator Washington
Finance Committee Members