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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
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Testimony for Senate Bill 796
Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care
Commission – Reporting Requirements
Health and Government Operations
March 30, 2021

Madam Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 796 - Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements.

Senate Bill 796 is a recommendation of the Senate President’s Advisory Workgroup for Equity and Inclusion and requires the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to prepare a revised health care disparities report card by December 31st, 2021. The report card will compare the findings to that of the 2010 report card to identify trends.

Additionally, Senate Bill 796 requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to study the participation of minorities in health occupations, rather than just the percentage of minorities in the physician population, as initially studied.

Addressing health disparities relies on access to data. Many states have already undertaken these types of studies, which have become increasingly important as the COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted health disparities in Maryland. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 796.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt