



**JAN H. GARDNER**  
**Frederick County**  
**Executive**

**HB 463**

**Maryland Health Equity**  
**Resource Act**

**County Position: SUPPORT**

Date: February 2, 2021  
Committee: Health & Government Operations

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges your **SUPPORT** for House Bill – 463 – Maryland Health Equity Resource Act.

Disparate access to health care has led to inequities in health outcomes. The current COVID-19 pandemic has unveiled these inequities in our communities and particularly among our residents of color, lower income, those with disabilities and those living in geographically isolated or rural areas.

County Executive Gardner supports the provisions in the proposed legislation that:

- Establishes a process for designating “Health Equity Resource Communities” (HERCS) to target State funding and resources to specific areas in order to reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes and access to health care, and promote prevention services;
- Identifies health disparities and the gaps in health outcomes of individuals and communities;
- Targets in particular racial, ethnic, geographic, and disability related health disparities; and
- Results in the reduction of health care costs, hospital admissions and readmissions.

Frederick County Executive Gardner urges a **FAVORABLE** report for House Bill 463.