



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

February 25, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991

RE: HB 915 – Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill 915 (HB 915) – Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals.

MDH has already started the important work of looking at this mental health professional population through efforts undertaken by the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). BHA's overall goal is to increase access and facilitate behavioral health equity for Maryland residents, including access to certain professions. Part of the current work BHA undertakes is funding five workforce expansion projects, in partnership with Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the University of Maryland, to increase under-represented professionals in the behavioral health workforce. If HB 915 is passed, the findings and recommendations can be used to inform these efforts.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at webster.ye@maryland.gov / (410) 260-3190 or Heather Shek, Director of Governmental Affairs at heather.shek@maryland.gov and at the same phone number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Webster Ye".

Webster Ye
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy