

# *“OPPORTUNITY AND HEALTH FOR ALL”*

*Lifting up Middle School Boys to Build Healthy Communities*

**Dr. Hussein Summer Scholarships**

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January 26, 2021

Delegates Pena-Melnyk & R. Lewis  
Sponsors of HB28  
Maryland General Assembly  
Health and Government Operations  
6 Bladen St. House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Delegates Melnyk & Lewis:      Re: HB 28 Implicit Bias Training & MHHD

I, Dr. Carlessia Hussein am submitting this letter in support of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities publishing health disparities data by race and ethnicity on its website. This information is essential to reach awareness within healthcare delivery, health education institutions and health research systems that will move them to focus on reducing health disparities. This State Office is uniquely positioned to monitor and report on those disparities that persist and resist costly programming and result in poor health and preventable death in the public and private sectors of healthcare.

I also submit this letter in support of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities taking the lead to move both government and the private sector toward aggressive remediation of the ‘Implicit Bias’ that has plagued this nation for hundreds of years. Left unattended, it has mutated into re-expansion of ‘Explicit Bias’ which we have recently seen in the nation’s Capital. And finally, Implicit Bias in healthcare settings has again resulted in avoidable COVID-19 illnesses and deaths aided and abetted by the social determinants of health. Leadership in providing ‘Unconscious Bias’ training for health professionals could be the single intervention that State government could launch that would lead to a measurable reduction in most of the health disparities we experience in Maryland.

To achieve both of these very much needed interventions, there must be adequate and sustained funding and staff expertise that survives the changes in political and top leadership.

Sincerely,

*Carlessia A. Hussein*

Carlessia A. Hussein, RN, Dr. Ph.