

# State of Maryland

## Commission on Civil Rights

*“Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.”*



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March 19, 2021

### **House Bill 1167 – Maryland Nondiscrimination in Health Care Coverage Act** **POSITION: Support**

Dear Chairperson Pendergrass, Vice Chairperson Peña-Melnyk, and Members of the House Health & Government Operations Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”; “The Commission”) is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

House Bill 1167 requires a health care provider or institution to ensure the provision or continuation of life-sustaining care unless the patient, the patient’s family, or the patient’s advance directive says otherwise. Certain measurements, such as dollars-per-quality adjusted life year, are prohibited from use in determining care for a patient.

§19-355 of the Health – General Article currently prohibits a hospital or related institution from discriminating against any individual with respect to the individual's medical care because of the race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of the individual. The provisions of HB1167 are consistent with current law, extending anti-discrimination protections to individuals based on their disability and age (as defined in Title 20 of the State Government Article) when they are attempting to access or are receiving life-sustaining care.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on HB1167. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.