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January 22, 2021

To: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General

Re: House Bill 28 (Public Health – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities): Support

The Office of the Attorney General supports House Bill 28 which would expand the scope of health care workforce training and reporting by the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities in the Department of Health (“the Office”). The bill requires expanded publication of the Office’s health disparity and other data, and requires annual reporting to the legislature. The bill also expressly defines “implicit bias” as an element to be addressed in the cultural and linguistic competency training of the healthcare workforce conducted by the Office. Implicit bias was recognized by the Attorney General’s COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force as a force that perpetuates racism in health care systems. We believe the improved healthcare workforce training and data reporting and publication would help to rid our health care system of racism, discrimination and health outcome disparities.

We urge the Committee to give House Bill 28 a favorable report.

cc: Sponsor