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STATE OF MARYLAND
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CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

March 30, 2021

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

From: The Office of the Attorney General, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

Re: Senate Bill 796 (Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission-Reporting Requirements): Support

The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU) supports Senate Bill 796, which was recommended by the Senate President's Advisory Workgroup for Equity and Inclusion. The bill requires the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities ("Office"), the Maryland Health Care Commission ("Commission"), and the Maryland Department of Health ("Department") to publish a "Health Care Disparities Policy Report Card" with information on racial and ethnical variations in insurance coverage, racial and ethnic composition of the health care practitioner population, and the racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates for communicable and non-communicable diseases identified as state priorities, such as cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and cardiovascular disease. The collaborative effort should enable the Commission to continue its work to develop and publish more detailed and timely information on healthcare disparities, and to create better metrics to ensure that disparities are reducing as a result of state programs and policies.

We ask the committee for a favorable report.

cc: Sponsor