



American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc.
655 15th St. NW, Suite 503
Washington, D.C. 20005

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
The Honorable Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SUPPORT OF HB 179 Counties and State Legislative Districts – Food Environment Reports

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) **supports** *HB 179 Counties and State Legislative Districts – Food Environment Reports*. ACS CAN supports policies such as HB 179—in which, improve health food access and affordability especially in low-income neighborhoods, rural areas and communities of color, which tend to have less access to healthy food options.

Obesity, physical inactivity, and poor nutrition are major risk factors for cancer, second only to tobacco use. The biological link between excess weight and cancer is believed to be related to multiple factors including fat and sugar metabolism, immune function, hormone levels and proteins that affect hormone levels, and other factors related to cell growth.¹² Maintaining a healthy body weight throughout life is key to reducing cancer risk.

Currently, there are no requirements in law for Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) to report on the food environment in each legislative district. This legislation provides a much-needed research mechanism which will help to improve and promote healthy food access in Maryland. ACS CAN asks the committee for a favorable committee report of HB 179.

Sincerely,

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¹ Kushi LH, Doyle C, McCullough M, et al. American Cancer Society Guidelines on Nutrition and Physical Activity for Cancer Prevention. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2012; 62:30-67.

² Iyengar NM, Hudis CA, Dannenberg AJ. Obesity and cancer: local and systemic mechanisms. *Annu. Rev. Med.* 2015;66:297–309.