
Maura J. Rossman, M.D., Health Officer

TO: Senator Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Jason P. Bashura, MPH, RS
Chair, Howard County Board of Health
Howard County, MD

February 24, 2022

Dear Madame Chair,

On behalf of the Howard County Board of Health, I am pleased to offer this letter of support recognizing the importance of SB 548 **“Local Health Officers – Removal – Grounds and Process.”**

The Howard County Board of Health fully supports the spirit and intent of this bill which seeks to repeal *“...a provision of law providing that a health officer serves at the pleasure of the Secretary of Health and the governing body of the county,”* furthering to ensure the stability and leadership of our Health Officers across the State of Maryland.

For the last several months, the Howard County Board of Health has evaluated the law that outlines how health officers in Maryland can be terminated - to see if this is something that warranted further legislative review. The introduction of this bill by Senator Clarence K. Lam is welcomed recognition of this issue and reaffirms the commitment that is needed in our appointed Health Officers ability to perform their public health protecting, promoting, and preserving work. These efforts are expected - *and desperately needed* – especially in times such as these.

The Howard County Board of Health hopes that the Senate Finance Committee reports favorably upon this bill that seeks to reform the current law in which County elected officials have the “ability” to terminate or otherwise force Health Officers in to leaving their post – without permitting them access to due process - when our communities need them the most.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration on SB 548 and for your continuing efforts towards enhancing and supporting county public health infrastructure.

Very respectfully,



Jason P. Bashura, MPH, RS
Chair, Howard County Board of Health

cc: Maryland Secretary of Health, Daniel R. Schrader
Senator Clarence K. Lam
Dr. Maura Rossman, Executive Secretary, Howard County Board of Health and Health Officer,
Howard County Health Dept.
Dr. Calvin Ball, County Executive, Howard County
Board Members, Howard County Board of Health