



American Lung Association Testimony House Bill 473
Economic Matters & Environment & Transportation
February 15, 2023
Support

Chair Wilson, Chair Barve and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 473, Environment-Ambient Air Monitoring-Particulate & Fine Particulate Matter sponsored by Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo. The American Lung Association **supports** this bill as it will deploy ambient air monitors in communities that suffer disproportionate exposure from local sources of emissions.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

The American Lung Association's [2022 State of the Air¹](#) report revealed that four in ten Americans, more than 137 million people live in counties that had unhealthy levels of ozone and/or particle pollution. In Maryland there were mixed results with 54% of people living in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution. Ozone and particle pollution can harm the health of all Maryland residents and of particular risk are children, older adults, pregnant people, and those living with chronic diseases – approximately 100,000 children and 420,000 adults are living with asthma in Maryland. Both ozone and particle pollution can cause premature death and other serious health effects such as asthma attacks, cardiovascular damage, and developmental and reproductive harm.

The American Lung Association believes that all people are entitled to breathe healthy air and to be free of the adverse health effects of air pollution. We support the protection of all people from the harm of air pollution, especially those who suffer disproportionate exposure from local sources of emissions. We recognize that major sources of air pollution are often located near where many people especially communities of color or lower income, live and work which means their exposure to pollutants emitted can be more immediate and disproportionately harmful. The Lung Association supports efforts to monitor pollutants in communities that suffer disproportionate exposure as House Bill 473 aims to do by deploying ambient air monitors.

The Lung Association thanks the Maryland General Assembly for their continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of the residents of Maryland and the desire to protect Maryland students. The Lung Association **supports** House Bill 473 and encourages swift action and favorable report to move the bill out of committee and passage by the General Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aleks Casper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aleks Casper
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¹ American Lung Association. State of the Air Report, 2022. Available at: <https://www.lung.org/research/sota>