



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 15, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission - Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 245 - Maryland Community Health Resources Commission - Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation. This legislation extends the sunset date of the Commission from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2028. The bill also requests that a program evaluation of the Commission take place on or before January 1, 2025.

The Community Health Resources Commission was created by legislation in 2005 to support and award grants to community health resources in Maryland. Its mission has expanded to oversee Health Equity Resource Communities in Maryland as well as oversee the award of dollars related to behavioral health services in schools through the Consortium of Coordinated Community Supports, among other important duties.

The Department supports the extension of the Commission for three years and also recommends a program evaluation, given its critical role in Maryland's health care delivery.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary