



STATE OF MARYLAND

Community Health Resources Commission

45 Calvert Street, Room 336, Annapolis, MD 21401

Wes Moore, Governor; Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor;
Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair; Mark Luckner, Executive Director

January 16, 2024

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

Re: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

Dear Chair Beidle:

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission is pleased to submit this letter of support for Senate Bill 245 - Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation.

Senate Bill 245 would extend the sunset of the Commission from 2025 to 2028. It would also subject the Commission to the Maryland Program Evaluation Act and authorize the Department of Legislative Services to conduct an evaluation of the Commission by January 1, 2025.

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission was created in 2005 to expand access to health care in underserved communities in Maryland. Since its inception, the Commission has awarded 695 grants totaling \$126 million, supporting programs in all 24 jurisdictions of the State. These programs have collectively served more than 525,000 Marylanders. In addition, the Maryland General Assembly has approved two recent pieces of legislation, the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act, which promotes health equity, and Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, which increases access to behavioral health services for all children statewide. We appreciate this vote of confidence from the legislature, and we will continue to implement these two new programs to fulfill our statutory responsibilities.

I respectfully request the Finance Committee issue a favorable report on SB 245. Should you have questions on the Commission's activities, please do not hesitate to contact me directly (mark.luckner@maryland.gov / 410.260.7046).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Luckner', is positioned below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Mark Luckner, Executive Director
Maryland Community Health Resources Commission

cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee
Laura Herrera Scott, MD Secretary, Maryland Department of Health
The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair, Maryland Community Health Resources Commission