



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

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership in the Maryland General Assembly to expand access to health care services for all Marylanders. We appreciate your longstanding support for the mission and work of the Commission. The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 245 - Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation.

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 824 grants totaling \$238 million, supporting programs in all 24 jurisdictions of the State. These programs have collectively served more than 628,000 Marylanders. In addition, the Maryland General Assembly has approved two pieces of legislation in recent years; the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act, which promotes health equity, and the 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.

Thank you again for your support of the work of the Community Health Resources Commission. We would appreciate favorable consideration of SB 245. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Mark Luckner, Executive Director
Maryland Community Health Resources Commission

cc: Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee
Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH, Secretary, Maryland Department of Health
The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair, Maryland Community Health Resources Commission