



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

WALA BLEGAY
Council Member, District 6

March 7, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
State of Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 1137 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk,

It is my hope that this written correspondence reaches you in both good health and spirit. I am writing to strongly express my support for House Bill 1137, which stresses the crucial importance of CT Scanning for Calcium Score Testing in the early detection of cardiovascular disease. As a Council Member representing District 6, I fully recognize the profound impact this bill could have on the health and well-being of our constituents. As you may be aware, heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in Prince George's County, and one in every three adults in Prince George's County suffers from hypertension. Every step we take towards early detection and prevention is a powerful stride towards greater health equity and well-being for Prince George's County.

House Bill 1137 provides a much-needed opportunity for early detection. It has the potential to save countless lives and reduce the burden of heart disease in our state by mandating coverage for calcium score testing for individuals with specific risk factors, including diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and a family history of premature coronary artery disease. Moreover, this screening method is both cost-effective and efficient, making it a practical and necessary option for implementation.

I urge you to provide your unwavering support to House Bill 1137 and help us pave the way toward a healthier future for our state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wala Blegay", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Wala Blegay, Esq.
Council Member, District 6

County Administration Building – Largo, Maryland 20774
Phone (301) 952-3426 Fax (301) 952-4351
E-mail: CouncilDistrict6@co.pg.md.us
www.princegeorgescountymd.gov