

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melynk Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee 240 Taylor House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 684 – Public Health – Health Equity Dashboard - Letter of Support As Amended

Dear Chair Peña-Melynk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 684 - Public Health – Health Equity Dashboard.

Over the past two years, the Department has worked to develop numerous dashboards to improve data driven decision making and data transparency. The Department is currently developing a centralized Health Indicators Dashboard (HID). HID will serve as an interactive self-service data portal with access to health data across various measures, segmented by demographics. HID will include measures for monitoring both the State Health Improvement Plan and State Health Equity Plan, as well as addressing other mandated reporting on disparities.

The Department will continue efforts underway to partner with the Maryland Commission on Health Equity on identifying measures for monitoring and advancing health equity in the State. All of the datapoints enumerated in SB 684 are planned to be incorporated into HID. The amendments to this bill will allow the Department to update HID on a quarterly basis based on data availability.

The Department strongly supports the goals of reducing healthcare disparities and advancing data infrastructure and transparency. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Ryan B. Moran, DrPH, MHSA

Acting Secretary