

Testimony HB783

As Chair of the Anne Arundel County Human Relations Commission I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 783 - Health Occupations - Structural Racism Training.

Currently certain health occupation employees applying for renewal of certain licenses and certain certificates are only required to complete an implicit bias training program. The proposed legislation would require these employees to complete an implicit bias and structural racism program before certain licenses and certain certificates are renewed.

There are many ways our society fosters racial discrimination. These patterns and practices converge to reinforce discriminatory beliefs, values and the distribution of resources. This is the end result of structural racism.

In 2021, the American Medical Association adopted policy addressing systemic racism in medicine. HB783 would put Maryland in position to positively address structural racism and its impact on employees who provide health services. The proposed legislation would take a major step toward advancing the goal, shared by the AMA of dismantling racist and discriminatory policies and practices that exist across health care in Maryland.

Again, as Chair of the Anne Arundel County Human Relations Commission I urge you to favorably pass HB783 and work with the Senate to have a version of this proposed legislation become law.

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