



Maryland Community Health System

Bill Number: SB 356 –Prohibition on Transfer of Human Immunodeficiency Virus- Repeal

Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Hearing Date: January 29, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 365- Public Health – Prohibition on Transfer of Human Immunodeficiency Virus- Repeal*. The bill would repeal the criminal penalty on an individual knowingly transferring HIV. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that states repeal such laws, which were passed at the height of the AIDS crisisⁱ. These laws have contributed to the stigmatization of HIV and discouraged people to seek testing and/or treatment. As a network of federally qualified health centers, we serve communities that have felt disengaged or marginalized from the healthcare system. We want to reduce barriers, including social stigma, for people at risk for or with HIV.

We request a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net

ⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/policies/law/cdc-hiv-criminal-ehe-2023.pdf>