



## Maryland Community Health System

**Bill Number:** HB 39 –Prohibition on Transfer of Human Immunodeficiency Virus- Repeal

**Committee:** House Judiciary Committee

**Hearing Date:** January 28, 2025

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *House Bill 94- 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 crisis<sup>i</sup>. 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](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net)

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