



**COALITION**  
*for a Healthier Frederick County*

February 13, 2026

Regarding the House Health Committee HB0882

Dear Madam Chair,

My name is Malcolm Furgol, and I am the Executive Director for the Coalition for a Healthier Frederick County. On behalf of the Coalition, I am testifying in support of House Bill 882 which would repeal the termination date for the State's Consumer Health Information Hub and remove the mandatory funding requirement while allowing the Hub to continue operating as funding is available. As a community health nonprofit rooted in health equity, we have directly relied on the Hub's expertise and tools to strengthen how we communicate health information to our community.

Over the years, our organization has worked closely with the Consumer Health Information Hub to improve the clarity and accessibility of our materials. Using the Hub's health literacy guidance, we conducted a full review and revision of our website to ensure it uses plain language and is accessible to both community members and professionals alike. The Hub has also provided direct training to our Local Health Improvement Process (LHIP) Workgroups, equipping nonprofit leaders, healthcare providers, community members, and more with the skills to communicate clearly and effectively in their initiatives. This training strengthened how we design outreach, share resources, and engage residents.

I am testifying because language is often overlooked in policy discussions, yet it is foundational to health equity. Communities most impacted by health disparities, including individuals with limited English proficiency, older adults, and families navigating complex systems of care, are disproportionately impacted when information is unclear. When a parent cannot clearly understand how to access behavioral health services, when a resident struggles to interpret eligibility for food or insurance benefits, or when medical instructions are filled with jargon, barriers grow.

I encourage the Committee to pass HB 882 to ensure the Consumer Health Information Hub remains permanent in Maryland law. Maintaining the Hub supports clearer communication across systems and advances equitable access to information statewide. I want to thank and acknowledge my team member Summer McClellan, LHIP Program Manager, in the preparation of the content of this letter.

Thank you to the Chair and members of the Committee for your consideration. I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 882.

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**Uniting our community *towards a healthier future***

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