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*Legislative District 47*  
Prince George's County

Finance Committee

Energy and Public Utilities Subcommittee

Senate Chair, Joint Committee on the  
Management of Public Funds



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Finance Committee  
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### **SB716- Establishment-Maryland Council for Health in All Policies**

This legislation will establish the Maryland Health in All Policies Council as below:

- (1) Use a Health in All Policies Framework to address and examine health and health equity, as a priority in decision making**
- (2) Acting on the principles of the Social Determinants of Health, (where you are born, live, work, play) are key factors in the quality of life. As a matter of fact, one such factor, zip code is significant in that it can determine a 20 year difference in life expectancy. The goal is to alleviate the challenges, disparities, and inequities due to lack of resources, as well as lack of access to resources.**
- (3) Foster collaboration between units of the State and Local Government to develop policies to improve health across the State.**

In 2017, SB340, sponsored by Senator Nathan-Pulliam and Delegate Robbyn Lewis, created the Health in All Policies Workgroup to study and make recommendations to units of State and local governments initiatives that positively impact the health of residents. The workgroup was comprised of agencies, departments, and organizations across the State who, over a three year period brought their collective expertise, and knowledge to the table. As a result, a comprehensive, user friendly report was generated that represents the model for Health in All Policies in Maryland, and set the tone for the establishment of the Maryland Council for Health in All Policies.

During that three year period, the Center for Health Equity, under the stellar direction of (Dr. Stephen Thomas, and coordination of Mr. Wesley Queen), provided full support, by undertaking complete administrative control, and

funding for the Health in All Policies Workgroup, including directing the activities, agenda, discussions, and logistics.

To that end, the Center for Health Equity University of Maryland looks forward to continue in that role as an active and engaging partner in consultation with the Department of Health.

This bill will promote health and energize a level of wellness across the board Maryland residents.

Health is an asset that we cannot afford to compromise. It is the foundation for life.

With me today, I would like to introduce my panel, the original sponsor of the Health in All Policies legislation,

- ✓ Sen. Nathan-Pulliam. Delegate Robbyn Lewis again this year is the House sponsor.
- ✓ Dr. Carlessia Hussein who collaborated on the language that created the SB340 (2017) legislation.
- ✓ Dr. Stephen Thomas Director Center for Health Equity, University of Maryland who undertook the tremendous challenge of convening, supporting, and staffing the workgroup.
- ✓ Dr. Nayna Philipsen
- ✓ Mr. Wesley Queen, Coordinator of the HIAP Workgroup
- ✓ Ms. Sarah Hurlbert, Staff Secretary for HIAP Workgroup

I thank you for your consideration, and ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Augustine  
Senator