

"OPPORTUNITY AND HEALTH FOR ALL"

Lifting up Middle School Boys to Build Healthy Communities

Dr. Hussein Summer Scholarships

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February 18, 2020

Senator Malcom Augustine
& Co-Sponsors of SB0716
Maryland General Assembly
3E Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Senator Augustine:

I, Carlessia Hussein am submitting this letter in support of establishing a Council on Health in All Policies for the State of Maryland. Health is our most precious resource. It is affected by our birth and where we live, work, play and age. While the individual can control many of these factors, government can play a greater role to help keep us healthy. Health-In-All-Policies (HiAP) is the framework for galvanizing state efforts for increased collaboration, focused interventions and measurable outcomes across and between State agencies.

HiAP dates back to the 19th century when inciteful people demonstrated how living conditions, clean water, sanitation and food safety had a huge impact on disease. The World Health Organization declared health as a human right and urged collaboration among different sectors of society to ensure health for the people. While some programs in the US adopted the concept of collaboration across programs, California was the first in 2010, to set in place a formal state level entity to promote an HiAP framework. Many states have followed suit.

Some Impacts in Other States:

- Farm-to-Fork Office setup
- Nutrition criteria imbedded in state purchasing
- HiAP training for local communities
- Legislative proposals reviewed for health impact
- Better understanding of social-determinants-of-health
- "Active Routes to School"
- Health staff added to statewide advisory committees
- Health equity reflected in data sets
- Greater collaboration at every level of government.
- Shared/improved outcomes.

It is the time for Maryland to implement a Health-In-All-Policies framework.

Sincerely,



Carlessia A. Hussein, RN, Dr. Ph.