SB716

I am a maternal-child nurse, attorney and retired professor with 15 years of experience in Maryland state government at the Board of Physicians and the Board of Nursing. For over twenty years I have followed the work of (Delegate and) Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam in Annapolis to nurture a system that supports the health and general welfare of Marylanders.

The collaborative Workgroup of Maryland experts to develop a Health in All Policies model, which was created by the Legislature in 2017, is one example. As the Disaster Nurse Coordinator for Health Services by the American Red Cross in our region, I have witnessed first-hand the interplay of multiple factors impacting prevention, readiness and recovery related to health in disasters, and the need for the proposed framework.

Good health is an essential cornerstone of a thriving, productive, resilient community. Health outcomes are often unintentionally threatened by gaps in and unforeseen consequences of policy. The Workgroup identified significant variables that are now addressed in silos, and recommended establishment of a **Health in All Policies Council**. This Council will facilitate and promote evidence-based decision making among state agencies. The result will be more effective decisions across state agencies, and improved outcomes in health and related issues, including public safety.

I urge you to support this recommendation by voting in favor of SB_____.

Nayna Campbell Philipsen, JD, PhD, RN, FACCE
RETIRED PROFESSOR COPPIN