



Maryland Association of

LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS

February 25, 2020

RE: HOUSE BILL 837: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards we would like offer support for HB 837 Public Health - Maternal Mortality and Morbidity - Implicit Bias Training and Study. LMB's across the state are working hard to address health disparities as we focus on the early childhood population. -

In 2018, the Maryland Department of Health Vital Statistics Administration, reported that black Mothers accounted for 54% of infant deaths in Maryland, while they only account for 33% of live births. These statistics are mirrored in many jurisdictions pointing to the need for more emphasis on the racial and ethnic disparities that impact health outcomes. Implicit Bias training would help address one of the root causes of this epidemic, and could significantly decrease the preventable deaths of infants among at-risk populations. Infant mortality and morbidity are preventable outcomes. Research has shown that concerns of black women are often ignored or dismissed by health care professionals, implicit bias training is essential to correct this preventable outcome.

As Local Management Board Directors we applaud this proposed Legislation and hope you will ensure its safe passage.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, Ph.D.
Association Co-Chair
Executive Director
A.A. Co. Partnership for Children, Youth & Families
1 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Suite 103
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mike R. Clark
Association Co-Chair
Queen Anne's County Dept.
of Community Services
104 Powell St.
Centreville, MD 21617

mcyphers@compass-gr.com