

18 Feb 2021

The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair
Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support of SB741/HB836 - COVID-19 Testing, Contact Tracing, and Vaccination Act of 2021

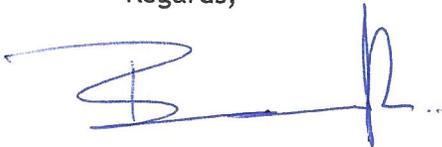
Dear Chairs Kelley and Pendergrass,

On behalf of the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), which represents the 27 incorporated cities and towns in Prince George's County, I am writing to express support for SB741/HB836. This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to adopt and implement a certain plan to respond to the outbreak of COVID-19, requires institutions of higher education in the State to adopt and implement a certain COVID-19 testing plan, and requires that certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations provide coverage for certain COVID-19 tests and associated costs.

The members of PGCMA adopted COVID - 19 relief and assistance as one of our legislative priorities because we understand the importance and the role we all share in ending the pandemic. By creating a response and plans for contact tracing, testing and vaccination, both residents and students will be better equipped to handle the pandemic as it continues to unfold and prevent the spread of the virus. The requirement for certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to cover COVID-19 tests, vaccinations, and all associated costs, makes it easier for low-income residents and at-risk individuals to get tested without the fear of financial loss. It also provides more incentive for individuals to get tested. PGCMA applauds the sponsors for including language in the bill that will provide grants to municipalities for contact tracing, testing and vaccination which will benefit residents.

On behalf of PGCMA, I thank you for considering this legislation and I urge a favorable vote on SB741/HB836.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bennard Cann', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Bennard Cann
President, Prince George's County Municipal Association