

I am writing to you because of concerns about health care inequality in Maryland. People should not have difficulty accessing primary and specialty health care because of where they live or who they are. Health inequities primarily based on race, ethnicity, disability, and place of residence persist throughout the state. The global COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed how severe these inequities are.

House Bill 473/Senate Bill 172 can address this problem. It would create Health Equity Resources Communities in Maryland to focus health resources in the neighborhoods where they are needed the most. These resources would be paid for by a one penny on the dollar increase on the alcohol beverage sales tax, imposed first on liquor stores, and two years later on bars and restaurants.

HB 473/SB 172 will address inequities by race, ethnicity, disability, and geography and ensure that every Marylander, regardless of who they are or where they live, has access to the healthcare they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration and I ask for you to vote favorably for SB 172.

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