

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
The Honorable Arthur Ellis

FROM: Gene M. Ransom, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: January 27, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 94 – *Public Health – Local Health District Boards*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 94.

Senate Bill 94 establishes a Local Health District Board that operates within the local Health Planning Agency. The Local Health District Board is charged with identifying health disparities being experienced by residents of the County, soliciting proposals from the local health planning agency and nonprofit entities to provide services in the County to address health disparities and awarding supplemental funding to be used to decrease health disparities in the County to entities that it determines will effectively address identified health disparities. Health disparities by their very nature are reflective of the deficiencies in access, delivery system responsiveness, and health outcomes specific to a given community. To appropriately address and eliminate those disparities it is essential that the solution be community specific and incorporate the collective involvement of community stakeholders – local health officials, community advocacy interests, and health care providers.

Maryland can no longer afford to tolerate the inequity in health care access and health outcomes that are evident in communities across the State. MedChi looks forward to working collaboratively with the General Assembly and relevant stakeholders to enact an effective framework for addressing inequity and health disparities in Maryland.

