



**Testimony before the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs  
Committee**

**Support  
for SB 565**

**Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information  
February 16, 2021**

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD), we would like to express our support for Senate Bill 565- Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information

Among other aspects, this bill alters the Health Care Disparities Policy Report Card published by OMHHD and requires each health occupations board to include on application and renewal forms an option for the applicant to provide their race and ethnicity information and encourages provision of such information.

NASW-MD, represents 16,000 licensed social workers in Maryland, one of the health occupations mentioned in the bill. We are interested in and wish to support this and the other bills which Senator Griffith has introduced which address racial disparities and bias. A first step in addressing these problems is collecting and appropriately using reliable information which is what this bill calls the state to do.

**We urge the committee to vote in favor of SB 565.**

Thank you,

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