



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 915 – Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals – Letter of Information

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill 915 (HB 915) – Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals.

MDH has already started the important work of looking at this mental health professional population through efforts undertaken by the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). BHA's overall goal is to increase access and facilitate behavioral health equity for Maryland residents, including access to certain professions. Part of the current work BHA undertakes is funding five workforce expansion projects, in partnership with Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the University of Maryland, to increase under-represented professionals in the behavioral health workforce.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at webster.ye@maryland.gov or Heather Shek, Director of Governmental Affairs at heather.shek@maryland.gov / 443-695-4218.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Webster Ye".

Webster Ye
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy