



SB565: Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information

Position: Support

Submitted By: Craig Behm, Maryland Executive Director – CRISP

CRISP appreciates this opportunity to provide comments to Senate Bill 565. As Maryland's State-Designated Health Information Exchange (HIE), CRISP's vision is to advance health and wellness by deploying health information technology solutions adopted through cooperation and collaboration. A core component of any information technology project's success is access to accurate data.

Senate Bill 565 will encourage the collection and sharing of race and ethnicity information between the Health Occupations Boards, Maryland Health Care Commission, and Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities. With improved data, these groups will be able to thoughtfully examine collection practices and improve health data that contains race and ethnicity data.

CRISP is not the appropriate party to speak to specific policies intending to address health disparities. The experience of the HIE, however, is that decisions should be data-driven to the extent possible. CRISP supports efforts to gather necessary data with minimal burden and to protect such data with appropriate safeguards.