



330 N. Howard Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
(410) 576-1400  
[www.plannedparenthood.org/maryland](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/maryland)

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee:** Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 565 – Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information  
**Hearing Date:** February 16, 2021  
**Position:** Support

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports *Senate Bill 565 – Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information*. Planned Parenthood of Maryland’s mission is to support equity for all Marylanders. We support health policies that focus on Black and brown communities, as institutional racism has had an enduring negative impact on health outcomes. As part of our legislative advocacy, we support the legislative package that includes the following critical bills :

- **Senate Bill 565 – Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information:** This bill enhances capacity of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to collect and disseminate data relevant to evaluate and guide policy decisions to address health inequities.
- **Senate Bill 52 – Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021):** In honor of former State Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, this bill creates a commission that focuses State agencies on addressing social determinants of health including affordable housing, stable employment, and sufficient transportation options; and
- **Senate Bill 5 – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities:** Implicit bias profoundly affects the delivery of health care services. We support the bill’s goal on ensuring all health care practitioners complete implicit bias training. We also support the bill’s focus on ensuring the State invests resources into the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.