



## Maryland Community Health System

**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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The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 565 – Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information*. As a network of federally qualified health centers, MCHS is committed to advancing health equity in all of our communities across Maryland. We are advocating for the legislative package dedicated to health equity:

- **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):** This bill establishes a commission of state agency leadership to examine State policies with a health equity lens. The Commission will support the State’s efforts to address social determinants of health, such as housing and transportation. The bill honors the work of retired Senator Shirley-Nathan Pulliam, who has been instrumental in advancing the State’s work to address health disparities;
- **Senate Bill 5 – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity:** This bill advances two critical goals: 1) Ensuring all health care practitioners receive implicit bias training. This training is an important component of efforts to eliminate bias and institutional racism in the health care system; 2) Ensuring that the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities has sufficient funding to support its mission to address health disparities and advance health equity;

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.

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