

ADDIE C. ECKARDT
Legislative District 37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot
and Wicomico Counties



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 322
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3590 · 301-858-3590
800-492-7122 Ext. 3590
Fax 410-841-3087 · 301-858-3087
Adelaide.Eckardt@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office
601 Locust Street, Suite 202
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-221-6561

Testimony for Senate Bill 796
Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care
Commission – Reporting Requirements
Finance Committee
March 3, 2021

Madam Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 796 - Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements.

Senate Bill 796 is a recommendation of the Senate President’s Advisory Workgroup for Equity and Inclusion and requires the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to prepare a revised health care disparities report card by December 31st, 2021. The report card will compare the findings to that of the 2010 report card to identify trends.

Additionally, Senate Bill 796 requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to study the participation of minorities in health occupations, rather than just the percentage of minorities in the physician population, as initially studied.

Addressing health disparities relies on access to data. Many states have already undertaken these types of studies, which have become increasingly important as the COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted health disparities in Maryland. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 796.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt