



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

**Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Phone: 410-764-4718**

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Delores Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 5 – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) is submitting this letter in support of Senate Bill 5 (SB 5), Public Health – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

SB 5 requires all licensed health care practitioners in Maryland to attest that they completed an implicit bias training program on their first renewal application after October 1, 2021. The Board recognizes the critical importance of implicit bias education for health professionals, particularly given the current national movement towards racial equity and justice, and the ongoing pandemic, which has clearly demonstrated the tragic consequences of health disparities. The Board currently requires 30 hours of continuing education for physical therapists and 20 hours of continuing education for physical therapist assistants, and is in favor of an implicit bias training program being a part of those hours. The Board looks forward to the implementation of implicit bias training for all of our licensees.

Thank you for your consideration of the Board’s support of this important initiative. If you have questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (443) 610-8047 or laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laurie Kendall-Ellis, PT, CAE
Executive Director

The opinion of the Board expressed in this letter of support does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.