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Budget and Taxation Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**Testimony in Favor of SB0005**

**Public Health - Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities**

Good afternoon Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and the members of the Committee. I am here to request a favorable report on Senate Bill 5 Public Health - Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities. This bill has two working parts to potentially drastically reduce implicit biases in Maryland's healthcare system.

1. Senate Bill 5 will expand the data reporting requirements of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to include racial and ethnic data in their annual healthcare disparity policy report cards. Currently there is a requirement that the report card be done annually and published on the Maryland Department of Health website, however it has not been done since 2010. Senate Bill 5 will not only require the additional information it also requires that the website is updated every six months. As of right now on the website, the last update to information was in 2013.
2. The bill also requires all licensed and certified healthcare professionals to complete an implicit bias training course approved by the Cultural and Linguistic Healthcare Professional Competency Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this important policy.