

Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401



The Maryland
Acupuncture
Society, Inc.

January 21, 2021

Re: SENATE BILL 5 – FAVORABLE – PUBLIC HEALTH – IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING AND THE OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES.

Dear Chairman Kelley and Chairman Guzzone:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Maryland Acupuncture Society (“MAS”) as our support of Senate Bill 5– Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities. MAS represents over 1000 licensed practitioners throughout the State of Maryland and we are in strong support of this bill.

Senate Bill 5 would directly address the problem of implicit bias and racism in the health care field. The existence of racism and implicit bias in health care needs to be considered a public health crisis and addressed immediately. Organizations such as the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Emergency Physicians have all recognized the negative impact on public health as a result of implicit biases.

Implicit attitudes and beliefs are one of the factors that contribute to health disparities for people of color. As a field, we cannot continue to let this happen. It is our position that all healthcare providers be responsible for the awareness of implicit biases to be renewed on a continual basis in order to address widespread racial health disparities. For the reasons stated above we **SUPPORT** SB 5. Thank you for your consideration of this important piece of legislation and please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Denise Tyson
President
Maryland Acupuncture Society