

**5 - SB 796 - MHCC - LOS.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bennardi, Maryland Department of Health /Office of Governmen

Position: FAV

Andrew N. Pollak  
CHAIR



Ben Steffen  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**MARYLAND  
COMMISSION**

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**HEALTH CARE**

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215

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**2021 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL NO: SB 796**  
**COMMITTEE: Finance Committee**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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**TITLE: SB 796 - Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements**

**BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Bill 796 (“SB 796”) requires the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (“Office”) to collaborate with the Maryland Health Care Commission (“Commission”) to publish and provide a report card to include the racial and ethnic composition of all individuals who hold a certain license or certificate, rather than only physicians. The bill requires the report card to include a comparison of certain information. Additionally, SB 796 requires the Office in coordination with the Commission and the Maryland Department of Health, to submit to the General Assembly a certain plan on or before a certain date.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE**

SB 796 calls for collaboration between the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (“Office”), the Maryland Health Care Commission (“Commission”), the Maryland Department of Health (“Department”) to publish a “Health Care Disparities Policy Report Card” with information on racial and ethnical variations in insurance coverage, racial and ethnic composition of the health care practitioner population, and the racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates for communicable and non-communicable diseases identified as state priorities, such as cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and cardiovascular disease.

The Commission supports this bill as it aligns with our work to develop and publish more detailed and timely information on healthcare disparities. The Commission believes that reforms to the statute under SB 796 will convey the General Assembly’s urgency about the data gathering and information dissemination on health disparities. The legislation will also enable the respective agencies to examine new approaches to information dissemination and to consider

*Note: The Maryland Health Care Commission is an independent State agency, and the position of the Commission may differ from the position of the Maryland Department of Health.*

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
March 3, 2021  
Page 2

new composite metrics that reflect the interplay of housing, nutrition, and transportation issues on health disparities.

For these reasons, the Commission urges a favorable report on SB 796.

*Note: The Maryland Health Care Commission is an independent State agency, and the position of the Commission may differ from the position of the Maryland Department of Health.*

# **SB 796- Maryland Office of Minority Health and Hea**

Uploaded by: Dorrien, Erin

Position: FAV



Maryland  
Hospital Association

March 3, 2021

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Re: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 796 - Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission - Reporting Requirements

Dear Chair Kelley:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 796. The legislation would ensure access to better race and ethnicity data for our health care workforce by expanding the required data reporting beyond just physicians. Under SB 796 data for all licensees would be submitted to the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD).

Meaningful public policy that improves health equity and builds a diverse health care workforce requires access to robust, accurate, and Maryland-specific data. Past efforts to improve data collection for health outcomes, quality, and patient satisfaction by race were not coordinated or sustainable. SB 796 rectifies this misalignment and empowers OMHHD to carry out its mission.

In the past, the focus has been to gather data to improve outcomes for patients. Less work has been done to track the racial and ethnic makeup of our health care workforce. Building a workforce that reflects the communities hospitals serve is critical to improve the health and wellbeing of all Marylanders. SB 796 requires all health occupations boards to include an optional question on new license applications and renewals and requires the boards to encourage licensees to provide this information. This data can guide programs to increase the diversity of our health care heroes.

COVID-19 makes it impossible to deny or ignore historic health disparities. OMHHD needs to have all available data to ensure the right targeted programs and policies are in place to advance the health of all Marylanders.

For more information, please contact:  
Erin Dorrien, Director, Government Affairs & Policy  
Edorrien@mhaonline.org

# **SB796 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Eckardt, Adelaide

Position: FAV

**ADDIE C. ECKARDT**

*Legislative District 37*

Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot  
and Wicomico Counties



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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services  
Subcommittee

*Joint Committees*

Administrative, Executive,  
and Legislative Review

Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and  
State Personnel Oversight

Pensions

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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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

**2021 ACNM SB 796 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Elliott, Robyn

Position: FAV





**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Bill Number:** SB 796  
**Title:** Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and  
Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements  
**Hearing Date:** March 2, 2021  
**Position:** Support with Amendments

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *Senate Bill 796 – Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements*. The bill will increase the amount of data about the diversity of the health care workforce by requiring each board to collect the data on a voluntary basis from licensees and certificate holders. This information is important in informing the State’s and community partners effort in addressing health disparities. ACNM supports initiatives to increase the number of Black and brown individuals in health professions, as providers should reflect the communities they serve.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

**2021 MCHS SB 796 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Elliott, Robyn

Position: FAV



## Maryland Community Health System

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** SB 796 – Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements

**Hearing Date:** March 3, 2020

**Position:** Support

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 796 – Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements*. The bill will provide for enhanced data collection and analysis of the racial and ethnic composition of Maryland’s healthcare workforce. The health occupation boards will be required to collect data from licensees and certificate holders on a voluntary basis. This data will help shape programs to improve the alignment of the diversity of the health care workforce with the communities that they serve.

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.

5850 Waterloo Road, Suite 140, Columbia, Maryland 21045  
410-761-8100

**2021 MFeast SB 796 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Elliott, Robyn

Position: FAV



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** SB 796 – Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and  
Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements

**Hearing Date:** March 3, 2020

**Position:** Support

Moveable Feast supports *Senate Bill 796 – Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements*. The bill requires the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Health Care Commission to collaborate on a report on strategies to address health disparities. The bill also enhances the State’s ongoing planning efforts to address health equity by improving data collection about the healthcare workforce. The health occupation boards will be required to collect data on a voluntary basis about race and ethnicity from licensee and certificate holders.

Moveable Feast’s mission is to provide medically tailored meals and Medical Nutrition Therapy to individuals with critical or chronic illnesses. We provide nutrition counseling and assessment with a staff of Registered Dietitians to ensure that our clients have the tools to maintain health gains. We coordinate with our services with our clients’ health care practitioners in primary and specialty care. We support this legislation because it will enhance healthcare workforce planning to ensure the racial composition of the health care workforce reflects the communities that they serve.

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.

901 North Milton Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205 • 410.327.3420 • 410.327.3426 Fax • [www.mfeast.org](http://www.mfeast.org)

Moveable

*Feast is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, contributions to which are tax-deductible. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting our accounting office. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.*

**2021 MNA SB 796 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Elliott, Robyn

Position: FAV



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** SB 796 – Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements

**Hearing Date:** March 3, 2020

**Position:** Support

The Maryland Nurse Association (MOTA) supports *Senate Bill 796 – Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements*. MNA supports efforts to build a more diverse healthcare workforce through Maryland’s higher education institutions. To plan and implement these efforts, we need access to better data on the diversity of Maryland’s health care workforce. Maryland’s health occupation boards are positioned to collect racial and ethnic data on a voluntary basis from licensees and certificate holders. This legislation provides for health occupation boards to share this data with the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and the Maryland Health Care Commission. Once analyzed, this information can be shared on an aggregate basis with higher education institutions and planning agencies.

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.

**2021 MOTA SB 796 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Elliott, Robyn

Position: FAV





# Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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PO Box 36401 ♦ Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ [motamembers.org](http://motamembers.org)

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** SB 796 – Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements

**Hearing Date:** March 3, 2020

**Position:** Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *Senate Bill 796 – Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements*. MOTA supports State and community efforts to ensure the health care practitioner community reflects the racial and ethnic composition of their patient bases. To be effective in these efforts, we need data on the diversity of our current workforce. This legislation will provide that data through the collection of information from the health occupation boards. Licensees and certificate holders can provide this information on a voluntary basis in initial and renewal applications.

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.

**SB0796\_FAV\_MedChi, MACHC\_Office of Minority Health**

Uploaded by: Kasemeyer, Pam

Position: FAV



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

*The Maryland State Medical Society*  
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Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915  
1.800.492.1056  
www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Adelaide C. Eckardt

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 3, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 796 – *Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this **support** for Senate Bill 796.

Access to data is a critical component of understanding and addressing health care disparities. Senate Bill 796 enhances data collection and analysis of race and ethnicity that will assist the State in addressing health disparities and inequity. Annually, the Maryland Health Care Commission, in collaboration with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities publishes a “Health Care Disparities Policy Report Card”. Senate Bill 796 would require the report to include data on the ethnic and racial composition of all health care providers, not just physicians. It also requires the report to contain a comparison of the data with previous reports, both for licensed health care providers and for the composition of racial and ethnic variations in insurance coverage for low-income, nonelderly individuals.

The enhanced data collection and analysis required by Senate Bill 796 will assist policy makers and affected communities in addressing health care disparities and inequities. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
410-244-7000

# **SB 796 - MD Ofs of Minority Health and Health Disp**

Uploaded by: Purnell, Vanessa

Position: FAV



**SB 796 - Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and  
Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements**

**Position: Support**

**Bill Summary**

SB 796 requires the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to collaborate with the Maryland Health Care Commission to publish a report card to include the racial and ethnic composition of all individuals who hold a license or certificate issued by a health occupations board.

**Bill Rationale**

MedStar Health is committed to advocating on behalf of patients for a better health care system and on behalf of all members of the care team to help them provide the best care possible. MedStar Health acknowledges that racial inequities create impediments to reaching those ends. Evaluating the performance of all members of the health care team and releasing the information to the public is an attempt to help consumers make better choices.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the nation’s health-professions workforce does not nearly reflect the diversity of the nation. Racial and ethnic minorities are woefully underrepresented in the health professions. In the 2000 U.S. Census, African Americans accounted for nearly 12.7 percent and Hispanics accounted for nearly 12.6 percent of the U.S. population. This diversity is not reflected in the health-professions workforce. As the following table<sup>1</sup> shows, African Americans and Hispanics are underrepresented in both the nation’s health professions and among those currently training to work in the health professions.

	Percentage of Health Professionals in the 2000 U.S. Census		Percentage of Students Enrolled in the Health Professions Training in 2003-2004	
	African American	Hispanic	African American	Hispanic
Dentistry	3.3	3.6	5.4	5.9
Medicine	4.4	5.1	7.4	6.4
Optometry	1.6	2.7	3.2	5.6
Pharmacy	5.1	3.2	9.3	9.5
Physician Assistants	8.4	8.1	6.8	6.5
Podiatry	4.6	1.7	14.0	7.7

<sup>1</sup> 2000 U.S. Census

We believe SB 796 will pave the way for consumers to have access to information that is meaningful, accurate, reliable, and relevant to their unique healthcare circumstances, so they feel empowered to make informed choices about their care.

For these reasons, we ask that you give SB 796 a **favorable** report.

**NCADD-MD - SB 796 FAV - Workforce Data.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rosen-Cohen, Nancy

Position: FAV



**Senate Finance Committee  
March 3, 2021**

**Senate Bill 796  
Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland  
Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements  
Support**

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the pre-existing opioid overdose death fatality crisis has worsened. In Maryland, third quarter data from the Maryland Department of Health shows a 14% increase in the number of opioid overdose deaths in 2020, over the same period the year before. There are also disturbing trends in the impact of the crisis on communities of color. This is just one aspect of the health disparities that exist that must be addressed.

Senate Bill 796 is an important component of a legislative package to advance health equity in Maryland. The bill enhances the State's ongoing planning efforts to address health equity by improving data collection about the healthcare workforce. The health occupation boards will be required to collect data on a voluntary basis about race and ethnicity from licensee and certificate holders. We support this legislation because it will enhance healthcare workforce planning to ensure the racial composition of the health care workforce reflects the communities that they serve. This is an important component of the success in addiction treatment services.

The State must develop specific strategies to address the worsening overdose death crisis among Black and Brown people. Collecting accurate and meaningful data related to the behavioral health workforce is an important step.

We urge a favorable report on SB 796.

*The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.*

**National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence – Maryland Chapter  
28 E. Ostend Street, Suite 303, Baltimore, MD 21230 · 410-625-6482 · fax 410-625-6484  
[www.ncaddmaryland.org](http://www.ncaddmaryland.org)**



**SB796\_MHCC and MHHD reporting\_Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Taylor, Allison

Position: FAV



Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc  
2101 East Jefferson Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB 796 – Support**

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support – SB 796 – “Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements”

Kaiser Permanente is the largest private integrated health care delivery system in the United States, delivering health care to over 12 million members in eight states and the District of Columbia.<sup>1</sup> Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States, which operates in Maryland, provides and coordinates complete health care services for approximately 775,000 members. In Maryland, we deliver care to over 450,000 members.

Kaiser Permanente supports this bill and the effort to develop tools that acknowledge and address the vastly different experiences minorities encounter in our health care system and how these experiences undermine their overall well-being. A multicultural society mandates care delivery that meets the demands of chronic disease and health conditions more prevalent among certain ethnicities. It is essential to employ a workforce as diverse as our population to respond to these needs. Obtaining specific information on race and ethnicity of the population we serve as well as the practitioners who provide care supply our health care system with detailed data germane to delivering culturally relevant and sensitive care. To this extent, we strive to better serve the chronic and acute needs of our underserved minority communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact Allison Taylor at Allison.W.Taylor@kp.org or (202) 924-7496 with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Taylor".

Allison W. Taylor  
Director of Government Relations  
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Mid-Atlantic States, Inc.

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<sup>1</sup> Kaiser Permanente comprises Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., the nation’s largest not-for-profit health plan, and its health plan subsidiaries outside California and Hawaii; the not-for-profit Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, which operates 39 hospitals and over 650 other clinical facilities; and the Permanente Medical Groups, self-governed physician group practices that exclusively contract with Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and its health plan subsidiaries to meet the health needs of Kaiser Permanente’s members.

# **SB796\_StrongFutureMaryland\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Wilkerson, Alice

Position: FAV



**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 796 (Senator Eckardt)  
Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care  
Commission – Reporting Requirements  
Finance Committee  
FAVORABLE**

March 3, 2021

To Chairwoman Kelley and Esteemed Members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of Strong Future Maryland, we write in support of Senate Bill 796. Strong Future Maryland works to advance bold, progressive policy changes to address systemic inequality and promote a sustainable, just, and prosperous economic future for all Marylanders.

The work performed by the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD) has proven to be of great importance to all Marylanders. Their mission of addressing social determinants of health and eliminating health disparities helps achieve the goal of providing health equity to all Marylanders, allowing them to access health care services and the ability to maintain good health. We believe collaboration between the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) is a positive way to hold these entities accountable for providing accessible health care to Marylanders.

Senate Bill 796 would expand the Health Care Disparities Policy Report Card to include all Maryland health occupations. In 2010, the OMHHD and MHCC released a [Health Care Disparities Policy Report Card](#), which exposed that Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, and American Indians or Alaska Natives were all underrepresented in the physician workforce. Furthermore, from this report, racial and ethnic groups are drastically underrepresented in Maryland medical schools' graduating classes. To address these disparities, we implemented a four-year plan to address these issues, which further contributes to the people of color's adverse health outcomes in Maryland<sup>1</sup>. With this foundation of reporting, the expansion of applicability to additional licensed health care occupations is necessary because physicians are not the only health care providers responsible for delivering health care services. According to the [Maryland Hospital Association](#), Maryland employs 108,000 doctors, nurses, and caregivers, which provide care to millions of patients annually. With this information, it is evident that the Health Care Disparities Policy Report Card should include all healthcare system providers since they serve significant contributions in keeping Marylanders in good health.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/DHMH/OMHHD/MPEMHD\\_2010-2014.pdf](http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/DHMH/OMHHD/MPEMHD_2010-2014.pdf)

COVID-19 has exposed the serious health disparities that persist in Maryland; it's evident that people and communities of color in the state are more likely to experience poorer health outcomes compared to their white peers and white communities. By expanding the applicability of our current health disparities law, there is a new opportunity to take a deeper look into the healthcare system and address the areas where the state is falling short.

Senate Bill 796 is an important step forward in making Maryland's healthcare system more just and equitable by holding all of Maryland's health care providers accountable with reporting, eliminating the burden of health disparities in the future. Strong Future Maryland urges the committee to vote favorably on Senate Bill 796.

On behalf of Strong Future Maryland,

*John B. King*

*Alice Wilkerson*

*Rachelle Wakefield*

Founder & Board Chair

Executive Director

Policy Intern