



Committee: House Health and Governmental Affairs Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 309 – Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information

Hearing Date: January 26, 2021

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 309 – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities*. MNA is supportive of the bill as one provision of a critical package of bills to address health equity issues. We must address the system issues that contribute to poor health outcomes for Black, brown, and disadvantaged communities. This package of bills continues the work begun by former State Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, who as a nurse legislator, began educating policymakers about the issue decades ago:

- **House Bill 309 – Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information:** This bill enhances capacity of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to collect and disseminate data relevant to evaluate and guide policy decisions to address health inequities.
- **House Bill 78 – Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021):** The bill requires the formation of a Commission, consisting of leadership in State agencies, to ensure that all State policy decisions are made with a health equity lens. This critical bill brings a public health perspective to transportation, workforce development, environmental, and other policy areas;
- **House Bill 28 – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity:** This bill requires all licensed or certified health care providers to complete implicit bias training before the next renewal cycle. This training supports practitioners in their efforts to eliminate implicit bias in clinical practice. The bill also ensures that there are sufficient resources for the work of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

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 or (443) 926-3443.