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## MARYLAND ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS



Date: February 2, 2021

Bill: SB 5 - Public Health – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

Committee: Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair

Position: Support

The Maryland Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND), is an organization representing approximately 1,200 licensed dietitians and nutritionists, dietetic interns, and students within the state of Maryland. We support the goals of this legislation to require the Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Professional Competency Program to identify and approve certain implicit bias training programs.

Additional training requirements that ensure health care providers, including registered dietitian nutritionists, are better able to address their own internal biases related to race, gender and other social categories is something the Academy supports. In a recent statement, Academy President Linda T. Farr, RDN, CSOWM, LD, FAND, stated that “[t]he Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics believes American society, leaders and organizations must commit to doing more to address systemic racism and pervasive inequities across all facets of society.” This bill embodies that sentiment and works toward broader goals related to diversity, equity and inclusion the Academy is committed to.

For these reasons we ask for a FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 5.

Dr. Glenda L. Lindsey , Dr. PH, MS, RDN, LDN  
Public Policy Coordinator  
Public Policy Panel

Helene Fletcher MS, RDN, LDN  
MAND President