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January 26, 2021

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 78 – Public Health – Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021) - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Pendergrass,

The American Physical Therapy Association Maryland is writing to register our strong support of House Bill 78.

Among the many provisions of House Bill 78, the fundamental premise, implemented through the creation of the Maryland Commission on Health Equity, is the establishment of a statewide "HEALTH EQUITY FRAMEWORK". This intends to bring together policy makers and public stakeholders to collaborate and move the state forward in addressing health equity across all sectors. Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants treat patients for a range of conditions and from across all areas of the State.

We see firsthand the barriers and challenges that must be overcome to receive the care that keeps people healthy, and out of the hospital and long-term care settings. We support the goals of House Bill 78 and stand ready to participate in the work of the Commission.

Again, on behalf of the 1,752 members of APTA Maryland, we ask for a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 78. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our feedback.

Sincerely,



Kevin Platt, PT, DPT, MBA
President, APTA Maryland