



Indivisible: Central Maryland

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SUPPORT HB 078

Public Health – Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan–Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021) Hearing of the Health and Government Committee – January 26, 2021

Indivisible Central Maryland is a grassroots group of constituents of Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County and Prince George’s County who are dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values. **Indivisible Central Maryland strongly supports HB 078**, which would establish a Commission on Health Equity to examine the impact of racial disparities on health outcomes in order to improve health outcomes for patients of color.

The American Public Health Association, National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the American Academy of Pediatrics have declared racism as a public health crisis. Much research shows that racism exacerbates health disparities among Black, Hispanic, and Native American residents, including a greater risk of heart disease, stroke, infant mortality, maternal mortality, lower birth weight, obesity, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and respiratory disease. As well, the Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare the health inequities of Black and Brown communities as evidenced by the disproportionate burden of disease and death from Covid-19 on communities of color.

Indivisible Central Maryland believes that systemic racial inequities must be addressed, and centuries of racism must be repaired. We strongly **SUPPORT HB 078**, establishing the Maryland Commission on Health Equity to collect data on health disparities based on race-based risk factors in order to eliminate these disparities and improve health outcomes for Black, Hispanic and Indigenous residents of Maryland. With questions, please call Liz Enagonio at 301-351-6451.

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