

**House Bill 78- Maryland Commission on Health Equity- The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam
Health Equity Act of 2021**

**Before the
House Health & Government Operations Committee
January 26, 2021**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The University of Maryland Medical System (“UMMS”) supports HB 78 and the creation of the Maryland Commission on Health Equity. UMMS is a 13-member hospital health system serving Marylanders across the state and beyond in over 150 settings including an academic medical center and 12 local community hospitals.

The state of Maryland is not exempt from the systemic equity issues that we see in the national news affecting so many parts of this country. Given that, HB 78 is a prudent measure that the State can undertake to address these issues in a holistic way. Healthcare is impacted by so many societal and community factors, pressures and challenges. The Maryland Commission on Health Equity which, as proposed, would be comprised of so many state thought leaders would provide a means of thoroughly examining equity and inequity and the contributing factors from several perspectives by engaging all aspects of Maryland state government and providing solutions and a plan to move forward.

The social determinants of health that impact health care outcomes span multiple spheres. The charge to the Commission that it consider the impact of housing, education, employment and barriers to success in the workplace, transportation, economic stability, and more is precisely what is needed to take a serious and realistic look at the equity issue.

HB 78 is a prudent effort and for these reasons and others, the University of Maryland Medical System supports this bill and urges a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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