



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

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**2021 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: HB 309
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Oppose

TITLE: Public Health Data- Race and Ethnicity Information

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill allows the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to collaborate with the Maryland Health Care commission to publish and provide a report card to require the Office to also collaborate with health occupations boards to include the racial and ethnic composition of all individuals who hold a license or certificate, require health occupations boards to include a certain option on a certain form and encourage an applicant to provide certain racial and ethnic information.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) opposes HB 309 Public Health Data- Race and Ethnicity Information. The Board requests its applicants to complete demographic information which includes race and ethnicity on all its applications for credentials in professional counselors, marriage and family, art therapy, alcohol and drug, and behavioral analysts. Applicants are not required to complete the ethnicity section of the application for licensure/certification. As a result, the Board cannot accurately publish or provide a racial and ethnic composition of all individuals who hold a license/certificate issued by the Board. The Board does not believe inaccurate reports will effectively fulfill the purpose of this bill. For this reason, the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists requests an unfavorable report for HB 309.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions about this matter you may contact Danielle Vallone, Acting Executive Director, at 410-764-4734 or Danielle.Vallone@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.