

I am writing in support of HB0028, Public Health – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, put forward by Del. Peña-Melnyk.

Implicit bias exists everywhere. No person, no matter their occupation or education level can evade it. And most of us are not aware we have it. I would say that up until a few years ago, I never would've thought I did, but it's been clear to me for a while that I did and still do. And, sadly, it's also clear to me, that how I treated others likely was affected by my bias. It is unavoidable.

Once we know we have it, we become much more self-aware and careful as we go through life, interacting with, and working with others. Studies have shown that there is bias in the medical field and it can account for the disparate treatment that people of color receive, which also contributes to the poor health outcomes after treatment. That's why it's so important that every person who provides medical treatment to anyone in Maryland should have the implicit bias training, so that they can be aware of it and keep it in mind as they treat others.

Respectfully,

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