



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

420 Chinguapin Round
Road 2nd Floor, Suite 2-I
Annapolis, MD 21401

PHONE: (443) 482-5169
FAX: (443) 482-5104
www.maryland-cap.org

February 19, 2021

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

BOARD OFFICERS:

George Newman
Board Chair

Marilyn Neal
V. Chair

Wendolyn McKenzie
Secretary

Freddy Mitchell
Treasurer

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Angela Martin
Executive Director

Re: Letter of Information – HB757 – Local Health Departments and Community Action Agencies – Feminine Hygiene Products

Dear Chair Pendergrass,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Community Action Partnership (“MCAP”), for which I serve as the Executive Director. MCAP is a nonprofit, multi-regional association which advocates on behalf of Community Action Agencies (“CAA’s”) and partnering that serves individuals and families with low incomes who reside in Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. CAA’s are nonprofit organizations created by the signing of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s signing of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. This Act embodies the philosophy that low-income individuals can best identify the problems their community face and develop solutions that will resolve the issues.

HB757 requires that local health departments and CAA’s make feminine hygiene products available to woman at no cost in a sufficient amount that meets the needs of the woman obtaining the products. CAA’s, many of which are private, non-profit organizations with tight budgets, largely made up of restricted funds, such as Community Service Block Grant (“CSBG”) dollars, with little room for adjustment. CSBG funds, which are administered by the states, provide core funding to local agencies to reduce poverty, revitalize low-income communities and to empower low-income families to become self-sufficient. The CSBG is currently authorized under the 1998 CSBG Act.

CAA’s address a multitude of needs to of low-income people through comprehensive programs that are created based on data derived through Community Needs Assessment. We partner with public and private entities to design and deliver services that support the goals of each CAA’s local community action plans. Providing personal hygiene products to women would meet a need in our community, the bill is silent on how this mandate will be funded, both in terms of resources (financing and hygiene products), and in terms of staffing. Additionally, the legislation does not address the need to fund other critical care products such as child diapers, adult diapers, sanitizing wipes, etc. Therefore, I respectfully

request that the committee consider such concerns prior to voting for this legislation. For questions, feel free to contact me or Davion Percy of Percy Public Affairs, LLC.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A' followed by a stylized, wavy line.

Angela Martin
Executive Director, Maryland Community Action Partnership