



**Committee:** House Health and Governmental Affairs Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 309 - Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information

**Hearing Date:** January 26, 2021

**Position:** Support

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Moveable Feast supports *House Bill 309– Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information*. This bill is an important component of a legislative package to advance health equity in Maryland. Racism is a driving force of the social determinants of health including food security and is a barrier to health equity. Moveable Feast is supportive of these efforts because of our commitment to improve the lives and health of Marylanders who live at the intersection of food insecurity and critical illness. Therefore, we support the legislative package that includes:

- **House Bill 309 – Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information:** This bill enhances capacity of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to collect and disseminate data relevant to evaluate and guide policy decisions to address health inequities;
- **House Bill 78 – Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021):** This bill establishes a commission to ensure State agencies develop policies through a health equity lens. This approach will enhance the State’s efforts in addressing social determinants of health including food security, affordable housing, and accessible transportation; and

- **House Bill 28 – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity:** The bill requires all licensed health care practitioners to complete implicit bias training upon their next licensure renewal cycle. The timeline conveys the urgency of the addressing implicit bias within the health care system. The bill also ensure that there is sufficient funding for the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities; and

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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*Moveable Feast is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, contributions to which are tax-deductible. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting our accounting office. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.*