

**TESTIMONY OF JESSICA GORSKI**  
**WISE Healthcare Huddle Facilitator, Maryland WISE Women**  
**IN SUPPORT OF HB 463**  
**Maryland Health Equity Resource Act**  
**Submitted to the House Health and Government Operations Committee**  
**February 2, 2021**

**Position: SUPPORT**

My name is Jessica Gorski and I am writing on behalf Maryland WISE Women to strongly urge you to vote for HB 463/SB 172 which would create much needed Health Equity Resource Communities in our state. People should not have difficulty accessing primary and specialty health care because of where they live or who they are. HB 463/SB 172 will address inequities by race, ethnicity, disability, and geography and help ensure that every Marylander has access to the healthcare they deserve.

We believe that a critical piece of HB 463/SB 172 is the proposed one penny per dollar increase in the state alcohol sales tax which would fund the Health Equity Resource Communities. In order to succeed this program must have a permanent and dedicated funding source. In addition, alcohol tax increases are proven to save lives by reducing underage drinking and drunk driving. And, the legislation recognizes the impact of the pandemic on the hospitality industry by delaying the impact of the tax on alcohol consumed in bars and restaurants for two years. Please help make Maryland a healthier and fairer state for all our people by helping to enact HB 463/SB 172.