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MAYOR

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SB 5

February 2, 2021

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: SENATE BILL 5 – Public Health - Implicit Bias Training and The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 5.

SB 5 requires, among other provisions, the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to publish, to a certain extent, health data that includes race and ethnicity information collected by the Office and to provide updates at least every 6 months and develop a cultural competency program regarding implicit bias for health occupations.

In Baltimore City, extreme disparities exist between majority and minority residents. To address these disparities, greater data must be made available to local governments, as well as Maryland residents, to better focus assistance. Additionally, minority residents in the City are disadvantaged when their health providers dismiss their concerns due to a lack of cultural competency or biases of which they are not cognizant. Overall, this bill addresses many of the concerns BCA has with respect to its care for its most vulnerable minority residents.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 5.