



**Eliminating Heart Health Disparities Among
African American Women and Women of Color**

March 7, 2023

House Appropriations Committee

Chair Barnes, Vice-chair Chang, and honorable members of the Appropriations Committee. The Open My Heart Foundation supports House Bill 1226 to create a new Nonprofit Sustainability Fund and to fund it at \$100 million annually.

Small and mid-sized nonprofits are able to help the state government by providing services, opportunities, and enhancing quality of life in every community of the state. Nonprofits are able to address the specific needs of their communities, and often are able to reach individuals and groups that are hard for government agencies to connect with.

However, we struggle to obtain the revenue we need to fully meet our missions, to address the many and complex administrative requirements of a nonprofit corporation, and to grow.

An unrestricted grant of 1.5 percent to 10 percent of revenues would provide a boost that would multiply the effectiveness of Maryland's small and mid-sized nonprofits. Almost all of the funding that is now available to nonprofits is restricted to certain uses and purposes. It is difficult to cover the organizational costs of running a nonprofit business, and it is difficult to obtain funds for organizations that flexibly address multiple needs in our communities.

One of the challenges I face, as an example, is in being able to hire a program coordinator to run the program to provide support, education and assistance that your constituents need in order create greater health equity, diversity and inclusion in our community. Some of the other challenges include having an accountant or bookkeeper in order to comply with the many grant requirements. One of our goals is to give back to heart and stroke survivors by assisting with medical copays.

For these reasons, the Open My Heart Foundation respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 1226.

Contact information: Florence Champagne, florencedchampagne@gmail.com, 240-715-8703.

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Regards,



Florence Champagne
Chief Executive Officer

8704 Baskerville Place, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 · www.openmyheartfoundation.org 240-389-4361

