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Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and
Health Facilities

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on
Legislative Ethics

Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology,
and Biotechnology



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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB701 - Maryland Community Health Resources Commission -
Compensation of Employees - Favorable**

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission was created in 2005, with widespread bipartisan support. The CHRC is responsible for providing grants to expand high quality access to healthcare for underserved populations. The commission has awarded funding in all 24 jurisdictions and served over 120,000 Marylanders since 2005, including those of low income and those facing barriers in receiving healthcare.

To highlight- CHRC focuses on two main goals. First, the commission reinforces the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act to address health disparities across the state. Additionally, the commission supports the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, which helps provide coordinated behavioral health services for children K-12. In the previous 2 years, legislation has significantly increased the responsibilities of the commission. For instance, they have almost tripled staff from 4 to 10 members and boosted grant funding exponentially from 8 million to over 100 million dollars.

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission has been actively recruiting a project director for over a year without success. House Bill 701 is critical because it will allow the commission to attract a highly diverse and talented pool of candidates. HB701 will give CHRC greater authority in determining salaries for positions, in consultation with the state budget office. Furthermore, this bill will enable the commission to have more speed and tools in the tool chest to fulfill legislative responsibilities. For these reasons, I strongly urge a favorable report from the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nick Kipke".
Nicholaus R. Kipke