



STATE OF MARYLAND

## Community Health Resources Commission

45 Calvert Street, Room 336 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Wes Moore, Governor – Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair – Mark Luckner, Executive Director

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 701

Dear Chair Guzzone:

Thank you again for your continued support of the work of the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) in its mission to expand access to health care services in underserved communities.

Thank you also for introducing SB 556, which would provide greater salary-setting authority to the CHRC as it implements two new programs enacted by the legislature in recent years, the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act and Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports. SB 556 would provide the same level of salary setting authority that now exists at two other health regulatory agencies, the Health Services Cost Review Commission and Maryland Health Care Commission. Providing this greater level of salary-setting authority will enable the CHRC to recruit a diverse pool of qualified candidates and will assist the CHRC as it responds to its increased statutory responsibilities.

As you are aware, the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee heard and approved SB 556 unanimously earlier this session and the bill was approved unanimously by the Maryland Senate. HB 701, which is being heard in the Budget & Taxation Committee, is the cross-file to SB 556, and was approved unanimously by the House Appropriations Committee and full House of Delegates.

HB 701 was amended in the House Appropriations Committee to provide similar greater salary-setting authority for the Comptroller, Treasurer, and Attorney General. The CHRC has no concerns over this amendment to HB 701 approved by the House of Delegates.

The CHRC appreciates the confidence that the Maryland General Assembly has demonstrated in asking our Commission to implement two new programs and we would respectfully request a favorable report on HB 701.

Sincerely,

Mark Luckner,  
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer, CHRC Chair  
Members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
The Honorable Nicolaus Kipke, Member, House Health & Government Operations Committee