



TESTIMONY FOR SB0281
Commission on Public Health – Establishment

Bill Sponsor: Senator Lam

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0281 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland's health care system was strained just as every health care system in the world was during the height of the pandemic. As the pandemic recedes, it is a good time to look at the capabilities of our system and determine how it can be improved.

This bill would create a Commission of Public Health in Maryland, which would be tasked with assessing the ability of our health care system to provide foundational health care services in an equitable and comprehensive way. Recommendations from this Commission could help us be better prepared for the next catastrophe and could also help us address the disparities that we know exist and lead to better health outcomes.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.