



**Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)**

To the Senate Finance Committee

Chair: Senator Melony Griffith

February 14, 2023

***Senate Bill 0281: Commission on Public Health – Establishment***

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 0281, Commission on Public Health – Establishment. COVID-19 highlighted a specific need for our public health workforce and a study on Maryland’s effectiveness is essential for ongoing improvements. We’d like to highlight the importance of the 1.8 million rural Marylanders and encourage representation by someone living in a rural community. We’d also encourage consideration writing in the Maryland Rural Health Association as a representative as was done on HB0368 Task Force of Oral Health (2021 Session).

*Sincerely,*

*Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director*

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