

MARLON AMPREY
Legislative District 40
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 16, 2023

Testimony of Delegate Marlon Amprey in support of HB 615 - Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals - Extension of Dates

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

Last year, **House Bill 97** was introduced and passed for the purpose of creating a working group tasked with developing plans to promote diversity among mental health providers across the state. This working group is poised to include academic leaders with special expertise in diversity and inclusion and a diverse group of mental health providers. The ultimate goal of this working group is to develop a plan that will bridge the current disparities between the racial and ethnic diversity of patients and the provider workforce.

I am proposing **House Bill 615** to extend the reporting and termination dates of the workgroup to 2024 and 2025, respectively. It is critical that this process is not rushed and that workgroup members are given sufficient time to develop recommendations and put together a comprehensive report. Mental health is the cornerstone of our well-being, and we need to ensure that we take our time in developing and carrying out an evidence-based approach with equity at the center of the conversation in order to ensure that our fellow community members feel fully supported.

I urge a favorable report on House Bill 615.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlon Amprey".

Delegate Marlon Amprey
40th Legislative District - MD