



**Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team**

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

**Testimony on:** HB0214 – Commission on Public Health – Establishment

**Position:** Favorable

**Hearing Date:** January 26, 2023

**Bill Contact:** Delegate Ariana B. Kelly

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as several neighboring counties. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep all Maryland residents healthy and which promote equity across all our diverse communities. HB0214 directly addresses these goals.

HB0214 would create a public health commission to assess the ability of the Maryland Department of Health and local health departments to provide foundational health care in Maryland. Areas to be evaluated include communicable disease control, chronic disease and injury prevention, environmental public health, maternal, child and family health, and access to and linkage with clinical care. The commission will then recommend reforms to improve the delivery of essential public health services across Maryland.

Enactment of HB0214 and establishment of this commission will be the beginning of a four-year project to improve health equity and access to clinical care all across Maryland. Expected results include creation of a behavioral health and drug treatment system in all counties for those seeking help and the ability to train more providers of essential health services.

Lori Doyle, director of public policy for the Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland, has emphasized that the goal of public health is to get people outpatient therapy and services before their condition deteriorates to the point where they end up in a hospital emergency room or in jail from drug addiction. Enactment of HB0214 is a necessary first step in achieving that goal.

Therefore, DTMG strongly supports HB0214 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett  
DoTheMostGood Maryland Team  
[oliviabartlett@verizon.net](mailto:oliviabartlett@verizon.net)  
240-751-5599