






10521 Judicial Drive, Unit 200,
Fairfax, Virginia 22030 
(703) 424-6663 
info@dflaef.org 

HB 214
Favorable With Amendment (FWA)

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the DFLA Education Fund, a registered 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to advancing the consistent life ethic. Our chief policy concerns include access to quality healthcare—especially for mothers and children—and just solutions to racial inequalities. For these reasons, we welcome this legislation creating a Public Health Commission in Maryland to study these important issues.

We would like to respectfully suggest that the Commission study the possibility of establishing the following policy goal: reaching zero deaths in infant and maternal mortality in Maryland. Similar policy goals have been pursued in similar contexts, such as zero airline fatalities and zero traffic deaths. In those contexts, pursuit of this ambitious goal has yielded positive results, including the outright achievement of the goal in many years and localities.¹ We ask the Commission to include in its study of policy recommendations how the adoption of this goal might contribute to the reduction of infant and maternal mortality in Maryland.

We also respectfully insist on the adoption of an amendment to focus this Public Health Commission on the three factors identified in the bill's text. These three factors are of paramount importance. They are complex. Addressing them will easily consume the entire resources of the Public Health Commission. Additionally, we highly value the transparency achieved by specifying these three factors. If legislators feel additional factors are necessary, we ask that those factors also be named so that they may go through the transparent legislative process and be subject to public feedback. For these reasons, we reiterate the necessity of concentrating the Commission's attention solely on the three factors currently named by the legislation. This testimony includes an appendix which details an amendment which, if adopted, would accomplish the goal of focusing the Public Health Commission's work.

We look forward to supporting this legislation if our proposed amendment (or similar language to achieve this goal) is included in the final bill text. Thank you for your attention to our testimony.

¹ Address to United States Conference of Mayors by Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, 20 January 2023, [relevant clip available via C-SPAN](#).



10521 Judicial Drive, Unit 200,
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

(703) 424-6663

info@dflaef.org



Appendix A: Amendment Proposal

Amending page 5 of the bill text, lines 12-6, sections 13–4806 B(1)(I)(4) through 13–4806 B(2)

Current language:

4. SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
ANY ~~OTHER~~ FACTORS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE BY THE COMMISSION; AND
(II) HOLD AT LEAST THREE PUBLIC MEETINGS IN DIFFERENT
AREAS OF THE STATE THAT INCLUDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.
(2) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT CONSIDER ~~MORE THAN THREE~~
ADDITIONAL FACTORS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I)4 OF THIS SUBSECTION.

Suggested language:

4. SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
ANY FACTORS **DIRECTLY RELATED TO FACTORS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I)1-3 OF
THIS SUBSECTION;** AND
(II) HOLD AT LEAST THREE PUBLIC MEETINGS IN DIFFERENT
AREAS OF THE STATE THAT INCLUDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.
(2) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT CONSIDER
ADDITIONAL FACTORS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I)4 OF THIS SUBSECTION.