



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Room 241 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports **House Bill 965** - Maryland Department of Health - Breast Cancer Program - Eligibility and Public Awareness Campaign, which changes the criteria for eligibility for specific clinical breast examinations and mammograms for screening offered by the Breast Cancer Program to allow women under 45 who are believed to be at high risk for breast cancer, and requires that the Program's public awareness campaign be created and carried out by the Maryland Department of Health. **The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland has voted in support of this bill.**

Black women are more at risk of certain health ailments, and breast cancer is one of those diseases. The prevalence of breast cancer in various racial groups as well as relevant guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) must be taken into account by MDH when classifying individuals as high-risk. This bill will be a hope for Black women to possibly get ahead of breast cancer if they potentially have it.

House Bill 965 is a commendable effort to encourage qualified people to become part of the public awareness campaign that must be created by MDH. This campaign will help a lot of women get ahead of their illnesses and possibly treat them before they become untreatable. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports **House Bill 965** and asks that you vote favorably on this bill.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland