



March 6, 2024

The Honorable Josaline Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: House Bill 1333 - Maryland Commission on Health Equity -
Membership and Statewide Health Equity Plan – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) requests that the Committee favorably report House Bill 1333, “Maryland Commission on Health Equity - Membership and Statewide Health Equity Plan.”

The State of Maryland is currently applying to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the AHEAD Model, which will be the successor to the current Total Cost of Care Model. Equity is integrated throughout the AHEAD model. The AHEAD Model requires both the State and hospitals to create health equity plans and specifies membership and duties of the entity that develops the State health equity plan. The HSCRC believes the Maryland Commission on Health Equity is the appropriate entity to lead the State’s efforts to develop the State Health Equity plan under the AHEAD Model.

HSCRC is committed to working with the Maryland Department of Health and other public and private partners to improve health equity in Maryland. The Commission urges a favorable report on HB 1333. If you have any questions or if I may provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-251-4211 or jon.kromm@maryland.gov, or Deb Rivkin, Director of Government Affairs, at 410-991-7422 or deborah.rivkin@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JK", written over a light blue dotted background.

Jon Kromm
Executive Director

Joshua Sharfstein, MD
Chairman

Joseph Antos, PhD
Vice-Chairman

James N. Elliott, MD

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Jonathan Kromm, PhD *****
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Allan Pack
Director
Population-Based Methodologies

Gerard J. Schmith
Director
Revenue & Regulation Compliance

Claudine Williams
Director
Healthcare Data Management & Integrity