



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Josephine Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 240 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

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 Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill 1333 - Maryland Commission on Health Equity - Membership and Statewide Health Equity Plan. HB 1333 makes changes to the membership and duties of the Maryland Commission on Health Equity to align the membership and responsibilities of the Commission with the requirements of the next phase of Maryland's Total Cost of Care Model.

The States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development Model (AHEAD MODEL) requires states to designate a model governance structure responsible for developing a statewide health equity plan. The Department believes that the Commission on Health Equity, given its expertise and current work, is the state entity best positioned to conduct this critical work that will advance health equity in Maryland.

The Department hopes to build on the work of the current membership of the Commission and workgroups to develop a statewide health equity plan in accordance with federal requirements under the AHEAD Model. Changes in membership in the bill reflect requirements of the AHEAD Model for health care community engagement.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary