



January 27, 2025

Testimony of Laura Hale

American Heart Association

**Favorable SB 129- Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity - Advisory Committee and Hospital Reporting**

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the committee today. The American Heart Association extends its support for the updates to SB 129 Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity - Advisory Committee and Hospital Reporting.

In a [Presidential Advisory](#) released in 2020, the American Heart Association declared that structural racism is a cause of poor health and premature death from heart disease and stroke. From this advisory the Association has committed to:

- Drive advances in research and discovery,
- Raise awareness, empower people and engage communities to improve their cardiovascular and brain health,
- Advocate relentlessly to improve healthcare quality and ensure access to healthcare for all, and
- Innovate new solutions to achieve equitable health for all.

We are hearten by the legislation as it will help to provide more clarity for Health Equity needs in Maryland. This legislation is creating more transparency and ways to address Health Equity as well as providing focus on what needs to be addressed.

The American Heart Association urges a favorable report on SB 129 to support the health of all Marylanders.