

Dear members of the Committee,

My name is Pamela Parker, and I am proud to stand before you today as a member of the Women Heart and Open Foundation organizations, speaking in strong support of Bill HB 1137. This legislation is virtual for improving health heart health among Maryland residents, particularly for women, who are often underrepresented in cardiovascular research and care.

As a WomanHeart Champion, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that early detection and prevention measures can have on heart health. Calcium score testing is a non-invasive and effective method of assessing an individual's risk of heart disease. By requiring coverage for this critical test under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and health insurance plans, we can ensure that more individuals have access to this essential screening.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the United States, yet many remain unaware of their risk factors. Calcium score testing can provide critical information that empowers patients and healthcare providers to make informed decisions about prevention and treatment. It can lead to earlier interventions, potentially saving lives and reducing health care costs in the long run.

Moreover, as a supporter of the cross-filed HB66 I recognize the importance of comprehensive healthcare policies that address the specific needs of our communities.

Bill HB 1137 aligns perfectly with these goals by enhancing access to preventive care for all Marylanders, particularly women who may be at greater risk.

In conclusion, I urge you to support. Bill HB 1137 By assuring coverage for calcium score testing, we can take significant strides toward improving heart health outcomes in our state. Together, let us champion a healthier future for all Marylanders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela J Parker

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