



TESTIMONY FOR SB0560

Public Health – Maryland Commission on Health Equity – Membership and Purposes

Bill Sponsor: Senator Washington

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0357 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Given the state of health care in the nation in general, and Maryland particularly, it is comforting to know that there is a commission in place that is charged with developing a plan for health equity to ensure that those residents of the state that are struggling will have the same access to health care as those who do not.

This bill makes a couple of important changes to the scope of work of the commission. It includes accounting for access to transportation, transit programs, and transit services, as well as proximity to health care facilities and primary care providers. This is an important change, since many Marylanders do not have cars, or money for gas, so transportation and proximity are vital considerations in assuring equity.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.