



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

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: Senate Bill (SB) 519 – Prostate Cancer Care Access Grant Program and Fund - Establishment – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information regarding Senate Bill (SB) 519 – Prostate Cancer Care Access Grant Program and Fund - Establishment. SB 519 establishes the Prostate Cancer Care Access Grant Program, alongside a dedicated fund to enhance public awareness and access to prostate cancer care in Maryland. This program would provide grants to support public education on prostate cancer, assist with travel costs for individuals unable to access care locally, and fund other initiatives aimed at improving access to prostate cancer care. Additionally, the bill stipulates that the Prostate Cancer Care Access Grant Program Fund be a non-lapsing special fund, with the Governor required to allocate at least \$100,000 annually for the program in fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028.

The Department agrees that the objectives of SB519 are important, particularly in its focus on raising awareness and improving access to prostate cancer care; it is important to note that many of the goals outlined in this bill are already being addressed through existing efforts within the Department. Specifically, these efforts are aligned with SB 938/HB 1293 (2024) and the Cigarette Restitution Fund Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening, and Treatment Program (CRF-CPEST).

In accordance with SB 938/HB 1293 (2024), the Department is currently developing a three-year public education campaign targeting cancer prevention, which will focus on prostate, lung, and breast cancers. This campaign is specifically designed to reach communities that are disproportionately impacted by these cancers. The public education campaign is scheduled to begin on January 1, 2027, and will include prostate cancer-related awareness activities, which directly correspond to the objectives outlined in SB 519. Given that the education and outreach required by SB 519 will be encompassed within this broader public education framework, the establishment of the Prostate Cancer Care Access Grant Program may result in the redundancy of efforts, potentially leading to unnecessary administrative complexities and duplication of

resources. In addition, CRF-CPEST funds can be used to provide funding for prostate cancer educational outreach, public awareness activities, and transportation services for eligible clients, as prostate cancer is one of seven cancers targeted by CRF-CPEST.

While the goals of SB 519 are in alignment with the Department's objectives, the existing efforts through SB 938/HB 1293 (2024) and the CRF-CPEST program present a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing prostate cancer awareness and access to care. The Department remains fully committed to advancing these initiatives, which will effectively address the needs of Maryland residents without creating redundant programs.

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](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Laura Scott', is positioned above the printed name.

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