



# LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3185 • 301-858-3185 • 800-492-7122 Ext. 3185 • Fax 410-841-3175 • 301-858-3175 • Black.Caucus@house.state.md.us

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

### Chair

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20

### 1st Vice Chair

Delegate Melissa Wells, District 40

### 2nd Vice Chair

Delegate Karen R. Tolos, District 25

### Treasurer

Delegate Marlon Amprey, District 40

### Secretary

Delegate Jamila J. Woods, District 26

### Financial Secretary

Senator Arthur Ellis, District 28

### Chaplain

Delegate Jeffrie E. Long, Jr., District 27B

### Parliamentarian

Delegate Stephanie Smith, District 45

### Historian

Delegate Cheryl E. Pasteur, District 11A

### Executive Director

Ufuoma O. Agarin, J.D.

## MEMBERS

Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47

Senator Benjamin Brooks, District 10

Senator Jill P. Carter, District 41

Senator Nick Charles, District 25

Senator Antonio L. Hayes, District 40

Senator Michael A. Jackson, District 27

Senator Cory V. McCray, District 45

Senator C. Anthony Muse, District 26

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., District 20

Senator Charles E. Sydnor III, Esq., District 44

Senator Alanzo T. Washington, District 22

Senator Mary L. Washington, District 43

Senator Ron Watson, District 23

Delegate Gabriel Acevero, District 39

Delegate Jacqueline T. Addison, District 45

Delegate Tiffany Alston, District 24

Delegate Vanessa E. Attarbear, District 13

Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, District 32

Delegate Adrian Boato, District 23

Delegate Regina T. Boyce, District 43A

Delegate Frank M. Canaway, Jr., District 40

Delegate Charlotte Crouchfield, District 19

Delegate Dabra Davis, District 28

Delegate Diana M. Fennell, District 47A

Delegate Kevin M. Harris, District 27A

Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison, District 24

Delegate Shaneka Henson, District 30A

Delegate Terri L. Hill, District 12

Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., District 23

Delegate Julian Ivey, District 47A

Delegate Carl Jackson, District 8

Delegate Andre V. Johnson, Jr., District 34A

Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, District 10

Delegate Jazz Lewis, District 24

Delegate Robbyn Lewis, District 46

Delegate Ashanti Martinez, District 22

Delegate Aletheia McCaskill, District 44B

Delegate Bernice Mueku-North, District 14

Delegate Edith J. Patterson, District 28

Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnik, District 21

Delegate N. Scott Phillips, District 10

Delegate Pamela Queen, District 14

Delegate Kent Roberson, District 25

Delegate Denise G. Roberts, District 25

Delegate Mike Rogers, District 32

Delegate Malcolm P. Ruff, District 41

Delegate Gary Simmons, District 12B

Delegate Dani Tavaras, District 47B

Delegate Kym Taylor, District 23

Delegate Veronica Turner, District 26

Delegate Jennifer White Holland, District 10

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, District 22

Delegate C.T. Wilson, District 28

Delegate Greg Wims, District 39

Delegate Caylin Young, District 45

January 24, 2025

Chairwoman Pamela Beidle  
Finance Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Beidle, Vice Chairman Hayes, and Members of the Committee,

**The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for Senate Bill 60 (SB60) – Health Insurance – Coverage for Calcium Score Testing.** This bill mandates that certain health insurers and the Maryland Medical Assistance Program provide coverage for calcium score testing, starting on January 1, 2026, for individuals at increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Senate Bill 60 addresses critical health disparities by ensuring access to an important preventive measure, particularly for communities that are disproportionately affected by heart disease. **The bill is a Black Caucus 2025 legislative priority, and aligns with the Caucus' commitment to improving health outcomes and ensuring equitable access to care for all Marylanders, especially those in historically underserved communities.**

Cardiovascular disease remains one of the leading causes of death in Maryland, with certain populations, particularly African Americans, disproportionately impacted. Although mortality rates for heart disease and stroke have declined over time, [African Americans still experience significantly higher rates](#), with heart disease 20% higher and stroke 40% higher compared to White Americans. CVD affects 47.3% of [African American women, who also have the highest rates](#) of hypertension, stroke, heart failure, and coronary artery disease. Conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol, common in these communities, increase the risk of coronary artery disease. Calcium score testing is a critical diagnostic tool that helps detect early signs of coronary artery disease, particularly in individuals who may not yet exhibit symptoms. By requiring health insurers to cover calcium score testing for individuals with at least three risk factors—such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and a family history of premature coronary artery disease—Senate Bill 60 ensures that these individuals have access to an important preventive measure.

Access to preventive health services has long been a barrier for underserved communities, particularly in Maryland's communities of color. Black adults

consistently exhibit higher rates and poorer outcomes of cardiovascular disease (CVD) relative to other racial groups, [even after accounting for differences in socioeconomic status \(SES\)](#). Senate Bill 60 addresses these disparities by mandating that individuals at increased risk for heart disease have access to a diagnostic tool that can help identify the condition before it becomes life-threatening. Early detection of coronary artery disease can lead to more effective interventions and ultimately better health outcomes, reducing the burden on Maryland's healthcare system and improving the quality of life for those affected.

The bill applies to policies issued, delivered, or renewed after January 1, 2026, and is consistent with similar requirements for managed care organizations and insurers under the Maryland Insurance and Health General Articles. This ensures that all individuals, regardless of their insurance provider, will have access to calcium score testing if they meet the risk criteria, further promoting equity in healthcare access.

Senate Bill 60 represents a forward-thinking and compassionate approach to addressing the growing health disparities in Maryland. By expanding access to preventative care for those at highest risk for heart disease, this bill not only promotes better health outcomes but also supports the values of fairness and equity that are central to our commitment to improving healthcare for all Marylanders. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports Senate Bill 60.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland