

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle

Chair, Senate Finance Committee

3 East Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB129: Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity - Advisory Committee and Hospital Reporting

Dear Chair Beidle:

I am writing to support SB129, a bill that will establish an advisory committee that will assess data measuring health inequities observed within the State of Maryland. This committee will establish longitudinal assessment of health outcomes for vulnerable populations, by focusing on the ten widest disparities in health care quality. The work of the committee will be coordinated between the Maryland Commission on Health Equity and the Maryland Department of Health.

This bill will provide valuable data to the state's health sector, and the newly formed committee will provide new insights into the progress towards achieving equitable health services. The committee will be tasked to review health equity reports submitted by licensed state hospitals. Thus, accountability will improve throughout Maryland's health systems.

The Community Coalition for Lifelong Health and Wellness is a collaborative network based in Maryland, committed to sustainable health systems within Maryland's communities. The coalition prioritizes precise data collection and measurement to inform health interventions designed within our state. Consequently, we strongly encourage the Health and Government Operations Committee to give a favorable report for SB129.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arti Varanasi', with a stylized, flowing script.

Arti Varanasi, PhD. MPH, CPH
President & CEO, Advancing Synergy

On behalf of the [Community Coalition for Lifelong Health and Wellness \(CCLHW\) Founding Partners](#): Advancing Synergy, BE Rehab Services, Care for Your Health, CASA, Community Engagement and Consulting Group (CE-CG), Community FarmShare