



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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

February 18, 2025

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chair

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20

1st Vice Chair

Delegate Melissa Wells, District 40

2nd Vice Chair

Delegate Karen R. Toles, 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 Nick Charles, District 25
Senator Antonio L. Hayes, District 40
Senator Shaneka Henson, District 30
Senator Carl Jackson, District 8
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 Alonzo 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. Atterberry, District 13
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, District 32
Delegate Adrian Boate, District 23
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, District 43A
Delegate Frank M. Conway, Jr., District 40
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19
Delegate Debra Davis, District 28
Delegate Diana M. Fennell, District 47A
Delegate Kevin M. Harris, District 27A
Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison, District 24
Delegate Terri L. Hill, District 12
Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., District 23
Delegate Julian Ivey, District 47A
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 Alethea McCaskill, District 44B
Delegate Bernice Mireku-North, District 14
Delegate LaToya Nkongolo, District 31
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 Deni 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

Chair Pamela Beidle

Finance Committee

2 East Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers strong favorable support for Senate Bill 684 (SB 684) – Public Health – Health Equity Dashboard.

This bill introduces a crucial tool for addressing health disparities by requiring the Maryland Department of Health, in collaboration with the Commission on Health Equity, to create a public, easy-to-understand health equity dashboard that disaggregates health data by race, ethnicity, and gender. **Senate Bill 684 is a 2025 legislative priority for the Black Caucus.**

In Maryland, Black and minority communities experience disproportionate health outcomes in areas such as chronic disease, mental health, cancer, and access to healthcare. SB 684 ensures that data reflecting these disparities is made transparent and accessible to the public, providing a clearer picture of where disparities exist and where resources should be targeted. By including key indicators like cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and mental health, this bill highlights the urgent need for equitable healthcare access and services in underserved communities.

The bill's frequent updates (every 30 days) will empower community advocates, healthcare professionals, and policymakers to respond quickly and strategically to emerging health trends. This data-driven approach ensures that Maryland's public health strategies are more responsive and aligned with the needs of minority populations, particularly Black Marylanders who face significant barriers to care.

SB 684 directly addresses health inequities by enabling the state to better allocate resources and focus efforts on communities most in need. It ensures that health disparities are not only recognized but actively addressed through informed, targeted interventions. This aligns with the Black Caucus' ongoing commitment to promoting health equity and dismantling systemic barriers that negatively impact Black and minority communities in Maryland.

For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports Senate Bill 684 and urges a favorable vote.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland