



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers strong favorable support for House Bill 1100 (HB1100) – 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. **House Bill 1100 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. HB1100 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.

HB1100 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 House Bill 1100 and urges a favorable vote.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland