

Written Testimony in Support of SB0078

Maryland Senate Bill 78 (SB0078) – Public Health – Prostate-Specific Antigen Testing
(Protect Our Prostate Act)
Senate Finance Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Submitted by:

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Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB0078, the Protect Our Prostate Act. This bill represents a commonsense, patient-centered improvement to prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing practices in Maryland.

This legislation is deeply personal. My father and three uncles are prostate cancer survivors. Like many families, ours has experienced the anxiety, confusion, and uncertainty that can arise from inconsistent PSA testing practices and unclear interpretation of results.

Prostate cancer disproportionately affects Black men. National data show that Black men experience substantially higher incidence and mortality rates compared to White men. These disparities demand policy responses that improve both early detection and the quality of information used to guide care decisions.

SB0078 strengthens PSA testing by:

- Requiring written patient preparation guidance to reduce false or misleading results
- Mandating standardized calibration using internationally recognized reference standards
- Requiring standardized reporting in nanograms per milliliter with assay-specific reference ranges
- Increasing transparency by disclosing assay methodology, manufacturer, and lot number to ordering providers
- Reinforcing quality assurance through participation in recognized proficiency testing programs

These reforms improve clinical decision-making, reduce unnecessary downstream procedures, and enhance patient trust. Importantly, they do so without imposing undue burden on providers or laboratories.

As outlined in my book, *The John Henry Health Equity Playbook*, improving men's health outcomes requires strengthening health systems and removing avoidable sources of harm—particularly for communities bearing disproportionate risk.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Senate Finance Committee to issue a FAVORABLE report on SB0078.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Okey K. Enyia