



Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

HB1617
FAVORABLE

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
The Honorable Antonio Hayes
Maryland Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing today in support of HB1617, a bill that will provide Prince George's County with new tools to attract businesses in the healthcare industry, or otherwise contribute to greater public health, to locate within underserved areas of our County. Across Maryland, a person's ZIP Code should not determine their life expectancy or quality of life, but that is the current reality for too many Prince Georgians. This legislation would allow us to designate Health Innovation Zones and within those areas, we would have the ability to incentivize health care professionals, grocery stores, healthy restaurants, specialists and others to locate where they are needed most.

HB1617 will help fill an acute need in our County. It has been challenging to attract primary care physicians and specialists, and even healthy restaurants and grocery stores to locate in certain areas. This places a huge burden on those residents who, in many cases, do not have access to personal transportation to take them to distant places inside or outside the County. We want people to get access to healthcare, fresh food and healthy options – all important for healthy living – where they live and work. These are not mere conveniences, but essential to quality of life.

A specific example of where a Health Innovation Zone designation will have a significant impact is along the Blue Line Corridor between Largo and Morgan Boulevard. At or adjacent to Metrorail, this area is easily accessible to residents who have limited personal transportation. Our intent is to build out a diverse healthcare campus, however, we have little more than the anchor hospital at this time because other providers – so far – have not wanted to commit to this location. The Health Innovation Zone incentives will allow us to truly build out the vision for this area and draw the primary care providers and specialists, as well as healthy food options so urgently needed in this area. It will be a life-changing foundation for the community.

Thank you for your consideration. I ask for a favorable report on HB1617.

Sincerely,

Aisha N. Braveboy
Prince George's County Executive