

Committee: Finance

Bill Number: SB 78 – Public Health – Prostate Specific Antigen Testing (Protect our Prostate Act)

Date: February 12, 2026

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

My name is Lasava Tidwell and I am here to express my support for SB 78 the *Protect our Prostate Act*. For several years I served as the Co-Chair of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, Pi Omega Graduate Chapter's Staying Alive Community Health Festival Committee. I worked with the Chair, Clarence Jeffers, and RPh, to bring prostate screenings as well as other health related screenings to our underserved West Baltimore Communities. Over a ten-year period prior to Covid we successfully partnered with Chesapeake Urology to bring prostate screenings to black men in the communities we serve. Having had careers in the fields of Microbiology and the Pharmaceutical Industry I know the importance of prostate screenings for early detection of prostate cancer. Again I am here and we are here to express our strong support for SB 78, the *Protect our Prostate Act*.

Research consistently shows black men in the U.S. have the highest prostate cancer incidence and mortality rates, facing a 2.2 - fold higher risk of death and often developing more aggressive disease 3-9 years earlier than other men.

We know prostate-specific antigen testing, while an important tool for the early detection of prostate cancer, is not a definitive diagnostic tool and can produce misleading results that could lead to invasive biopsies or over treatment which can lead to participants anxiety, depression, and stress that impact their quality of life. We also know that the more standardized and more uniform testing requirements will be beneficial to participants and will allow them to make better decisions and achieve better outcomes for themselves and their families. This bill will ensure testing consistency for prostate-specific antigen testing across testing laboratories and home testing kits as well.

We urge you to vote in favor of this bill and help create a safer, healthier and better quality of life for the communities we serve. Thank you for your time and commitment.

Respectfully submitted,

Lasava S. Tidwell, Co-Chair Staying Alive Community Health Festival Committee

Pi Omega Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated