



## TESTIMONY TO THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

### HB0341: Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health- Establishment

**POSITION: Support**

**BY: Linda Kohn, President**

**DATE: February 10, 2026**

**The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes that every resident should have access to quality, affordable, equitable health care. The League thus supports House Bill 341, which would establish a Commission to raise public awareness and work to improve the health of Maryland's boys and men.**

Per the World Health Organization, "Health equity is achieved when everyone can attain their full potential for health and well-being."<sup>1</sup>

In addition to medical problems, social determinants of health impact the health and well-being of individuals and groups. Both influences must be addressed in order to make meaningful progress towards gender and culturally responsive care and health equity. The Commission for Boys' and Men's Health would help design and evaluate targeted interventions and community outreach programs to reduce negative health outcomes by focusing on the health conditions that disproportionately affect boys and men in Maryland.

"Gender is a powerful determinant of health outcomes."<sup>2</sup> Per CDC 2023 data, the life expectancy at birth in the U.S. for males was 75.8 years, and for females, it was 81.1 years.<sup>3</sup>

The establishment of a Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health would be an important step towards addressing this marked health disparity. **The League of Women Voters of Maryland and its 2,000 members urge the committee to give a favorable report to House Bill 341.**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.who.int/health-topics/health-equity#tab=tab\\_](https://www.who.int/health-topics/health-equity#tab=tab_)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(19\)32759-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(19)32759-X/fulltext)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/life-expectancy.htm>