



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, House Health Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 341 – Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health - Establishment – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Bagnall and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 341 – *Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health - Establishment*. HB 341 would establish the Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health (the Commission) within the Department to raise public awareness of health issues specific to boys and men. The Commission would be composed of 18 members and provide policy recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly every year beginning in 2028.

The aspiration of this legislation is aligned with the guiding mission of the Maryland Department of Health. The intention of HB 341—to advance the health and well-being of boys and men throughout the State—coincides with the Department's commitment to protect and promote the health of all Marylanders. While this bill highlights important disparities in boys' and men's physical and mental health, the Department continuously works in partnership with local health departments, health systems, and community networks to support cancer screening programs, chronic disease prevention initiatives, mental health services, and other efforts that align with the Commission's objectives as outlined in HB 341.

In 2025, following the State of the State address, a focus of which were issues related to men and boys, Governor Moore launched the Young Men and Boys (YMB) Initiative. Housed within the Governor's Office for Children (GOC), the Initiative coordinates with agencies across government to address the growing needs of young men and boys in the state. The Initiative focuses on three pillars: mental and physical health, family and community engagement, and workforce readiness. The proposed bill raises a number of men's health issues that the YMB team is currently working to address through the Initiative. For example, GOC and MDH are partnering to address the high suicide rates among young men, using strategies such as increasing awareness of 988.

The Department remains supportive of efforts to improve the health and well-being of boys and men in Maryland, as demonstrated by the ongoing programs and initiatives the Department actively manages and the partnerships in which we participate. Our foremost priority is to protect and advance the health of populations that experience disparities. At the same time, in light of uncertainties at both the federal and State level, potential changes in federal policy, and other ongoing budgetary pressures, the Department must be deliberate and disciplined in its allocation of resources. Strategic funding decisions allow the Department to continue providing essential services that support the health and well-being of all Marylanders.

While we strongly value the objectives of HB 341, the establishment of a new commission and associated activities represents a significant investment, which presents a challenge in managing concentrated resources within a single program. The Department remains committed to working collaboratively to identify responsible approaches that advance men's health while maintaining the sustainability of the broader health system.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director of Governmental Affairs at meghan.lynch@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Meena Seshamani', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D.
Secretary