



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

*The Maryland State Medical Society*  
1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915  
1.800.492.1056  
www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Adelaide C. Eckardt

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 30, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 796 – *Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this **support** for Senate Bill 796.

Access to data is a critical component of understanding and addressing health care disparities. Senate Bill 796 enhances data collection and analysis of race and ethnicity that will assist the State in addressing health disparities and inequity. Annually, the Maryland Health Care Commission, in collaboration with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities publishes a “Health Care Disparities Policy Report Card”. Senate Bill 796 would require the report to include data on the ethnic and racial composition of all health care providers, not just physicians. It also requires the report to contain a comparison of the data with previous reports, both for licensed health care providers and for the composition of racial and ethnic variations in insurance coverage for low-income, nonelderly individuals.

The enhanced data collection and analysis required by Senate Bill 796 will assist policy makers and affected communities in addressing health care disparities and inequities. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
410-244-7000