



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 2, 2023

To: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair, House Environment & Transportation Committee

Re: Letter of Support- House Bill 9- Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses

Dear Chair Barve:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment support of House Bill 9.

As part of MHA's [commitment to racial equity](#), Maryland hospitals are evaluating factors inside and outside of their organizations to promote equity and opportunities to address social determinants impacting the health outcomes of Marylanders. We are working with members of our Health Equity Advisory Committee to identify partners and external opportunities to support these efforts. Hospitals are committed to embracing culturally responsive strategies to address disparities in health outcomes to ensure all Marylanders can be as healthy as possible.

HB 9 requires the Department of Transportation to consider ways to achieve equity in the transportation sector when developing state transportation goals. Findings from the transit equity analyses, required by the Department of Transportation, will supplement efforts linking social factors to health outcomes. These analyses are critical for a comprehensive approach to bolster success on the state's population health and health equity strategies.

Quality of life, functioning and health are products of the environments in which persons live, play, work, and age. The conditions in these environments, or the social determinants of health, are highly correlated with individuals' health outcomes. In fact, as much as 80% of a person's health can be attributed to factors outside of clinical care.

Maryland hospitals supported and participated in the Workgroup on Health in All Policies (HiAP), a result of SB 340/HB 1225. The recommendations outlined in the [Workgroup's 2019 report](#), included developing a HiAP framework and urged state agencies to use the newly created HiAP Toolkit, acknowledging the social determinants of health that are the key drivers of health outcomes and health inequities. By examining equity in the State transportation plans, HB 9 aligns with recommendations from the Workgroup.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on HB 9.

For more information, please contact:
Brian Sims, Vice President, Quality & Equity
Bsims@mhaonline.org