



House Bill 141 - Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses

Position: *Support*

January 25, 2022

Environment & Transportation Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 141.

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 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Group and Health Equity Task Force 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 141 requires that equity be considered when State transportation plans, reports, and goals are developed and establishes the Commission on Transportation Equity to assist in developing policies and performance measures to ensure the State transportation system is equitable. 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 prevention 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", 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 Places (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 141 aligns with recommendations from the Workgroup.

For these reasons, we urge a *favorable* report on HB 141.

For more information, please contact:
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