



MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

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Health Equity Resource Communities Initiative

- WHEREAS**, all Marylanders deserve access to high-quality, affordable health care;
- WHEREAS**, health inequities based on race, ethnicity, disability and place of residence persist throughout the state, as shown in maternal and infant mortality rates and other measures;
- WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed these health inequities and highlighted the need to address them and otherwise improve health outcomes in our state;
- WHEREAS**, in underserved areas of the state, people with chronic conditions such as hypertension, heart disease, asthma, diabetes, and substance and mental health disorders have worse health outcomes and are less able to get the care and treatment they need;
- WHEREAS**, supporting health and reducing preventable hospital admissions will result in lower overall health care costs, including lower insurance premiums for everyone;
- WHEREAS**, the 2012-2016 Health Enterprise Zones Program successfully increased access to health resources, improved residents' health, reduced hospital admissions, and created cost savings;
- WHEREAS**, the 2011 alcohol beverage sales tax increase led to significant reductions in underage drinking, binge drinking, driving under the influence, and sexually transmitted infections;
- WHEREAS**, Maryland has not raised its alcohol beverage sales tax since 2011 and its rate has fallen behind that of Washington D.C.;
- WHEREAS**, raising the state's alcohol beverage sales tax will generate necessary funds and reduce drinking, including by underage Marylanders and heavy drinkers, which in turn will save lives and reduce health care costs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned organization supports increasing the state alcohol beverage sales tax by one cent per dollar to save lives and reduce health care costs caused by alcohol overuse, and supports using the funds raised by the alcohol tax increase to:

- 1) Create Health Equity Resource Communities, modeled after the former Health Enterprise Zone Program, in locations around the state to address poor health outcomes that contribute to racial, ethnic, and geographic health inequities, and
- 2) Create more community-based prevention, treatment, and recovery support programs to address substance use and mental health disorders.

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (o) _____ (c) _____ Email: _____

Name of Representative of the Organization (Print Name): _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please fill the form out ONLINE at: healthcareforall.com/EquityResolution
 Or mail, fax, or email completed form to:
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