



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 8, 2021

### **Statement by Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks In Support of the Health Equity Resource Communities Proposal**

I am pleased today to announce my support for legislation to be introduced by Senator Antonio Hayes and Delegates Erek Barron and Jazz Lewis to create Health Equity Resource Communities across the state which would help to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes in disadvantaged areas. It is unconscionable that there are such large disparities in the kind of health care which Marylanders receive depending on where they live and their socio-economic status. The Health Equity Resource Communities are modeled on a very successful pilot program, Health Enterprise Zones, which improved health care outcomes in five communities between 2012 and 2016. By creating a permanent funding mechanism for this program, the new proposal makes sure these kind of health improvements can also be made permanent.

I commend the Johns Hopkins Institutions for their courageous endorsement today of this life-saving proposal. As Johns Hopkins President Ron Daniels makes clear, Maryland needs the Health Equity Resource Communities in order to address long standing health inequities in our state.

Angela Alsobrooks  
County Executive



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January 8, 2021

## **Statement of Support Health Equity Resource Communities Proposal**

### **County Executive Calvin Ball**

I am pleased today to announce my support for legislation to be introduced by Senator Antonio Hayes and Delegates Erek Barron and Jazz Lewis to create Health Equity Resource Communities across the state. There have been long-standing health disparities in communities across our state, which has now been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The type of health care received should never be based on geographic location or socioeconomic status.

The Health Equity Resource Communities will work to reduce health disparities and improve health and life outcomes in communities that need critical support. The Health Enterprise Zones pilot program helped improved the healthcare outcomes and quality of life of Marylanders between 2012 and 2016. This 2021 policy proposal would create a dedicated funding stream to mitigate healthcare access gaps and ensure health improvements can be leveraged across the state and for years to come.

I look forward to working with my fellow County Executives, members of the Howard County Delegation, their colleagues in the General Assembly and community leaders across the state to support this initiative. I commend the hard work that has gone in to establish the Health Equity Resource Communities Maryland desperately needs to address the long-standing health inequities in our state.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Calvin Ball".

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

## **Letter in Support of the Health Equity Resource Community Proposal –**

**County Executive Johnny Olszewski, Jr.**

I am proud to support Senator Antonio Hayes, Delegate Erek Barron, and Delegate Jazz Lewis in their efforts to create Health Equity Resource Communities in the State of Maryland. It is a priority of my administration to seek out disparities in the services provided to disadvantaged communities and rectify inequities by creating new opportunities to improve their health and well-being. Between 2012 and 2016, the Health Enterprise Zone pilot program successfully aided disadvantaged residents by providing previously inaccessible resources which reduced disparities in healthcare and improved their quality of life. This legislation would fund such a program permanently, allowing Marylanders to benefit from health enterprise zones in perpetuity *and* across the State.

Local government function best when the services it provides are equitably distributed across all communities and are accessible by those residents who truly need it. I commend and thank Senator Hayes, Delegates Barron and Lewis, for taking the all-too necessary steps in furthering this goal.