



March 20, 2018

Dear County Elected Officials, Health Officers, and Legislative Staffers:

MACo needs your help: call your House APP Committee members and urge them to SUPPORT HB 1620.

This bill changes the inflationary index for the Local Health Departments' (LHD) Core Funding Formula from a general index to the more relevant medical costs index.

More money for LHDs means more money for preventative care, immunizations, substance and mental health counseling, and communicable disease prevention - important public health concerns affecting ALL Marylanders!

Reasons to Pass HB 1620:

- The medical cost index better reflects and accounts for the growing costs of care the LHDs provide and ensures they can sufficiently meet the needs of delivering vital public health services.
- Core Funding reached a high of nearly \$70M in FY 2008 -- 10 years ago! Current funding is roughly \$20M behind where it was a decade ago - keeping pace with the medical costs index would solve this disparity!
- Over the years, those dramatic and lasting funding reductions have threatened LHDs' capacity to provide crucial public health services and have forced them to do much more with much fewer resources.
- Stronger Core Funding will help free up other resources to tackle acute and pressing public health threats like the opioid crisis.
- HB 1620 is one small but crucial step in the right direction for helping local health department funding keep pace with costs.

MESSAGE: Help Local Health Departments KEEP PACE with rising costs! Vote FAVORABLY on HB 1620!

[Call APP members today](#) or [use MACo's Legislative Action Network to send an email to your legislators.](#)

APP will vote on this bill in the next day or so - any contact you can make before the vote will help. For more information, contact Natasha Mehu, MACo Legislative Director, 410.269.0043 or nmehu@mdcounties.org.