

Preamble

WHEREAS, There is a silent health crisis affecting the health and well-being of Maryland men; and

WHEREAS, This health crisis is of particular concern to men, but is also a concern for women, as the crisis affects fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers; and

WHEREAS, Men's health is likewise a concern for employers, who lose productive employees as well as pay the costs of medical care, and for State government and society, which absorb the enormous costs of premature death and disability, including the costs of caring for dependents left without income; and

WHEREAS, The life expectancy for a child born in Maryland in 2001 was 73.9 years for males versus 79.1 years for females; and

WHEREAS, The 2001 Maryland death rate of 819.9 per 100,000 population for men exceeded the death rate of 802.4 per 100,000 population for women; and

WHEREAS, In Maryland, only 22% of the deaths to women in 2001 occurred before age 65, men younger than 65 accounted for 36% of all deaths to men in that year; and

WHEREAS, Men comprised 60% of new HIV cases in 2001 in Maryland and 67% of new AIDS cases in the same year; and

WHEREAS, Men are reported to be 25% less likely than women to visit a doctor; and

WHEREAS, Employment-based health insurance, which has traditionally financed much of the health care received by men, is on the decline, and recent Medicaid and other publicly-financed health care expansions have focused primarily on children and women; and

WHEREAS, Educating men, their families, and health care providers about the importance of early detection of men's health problems can result in reducing rates of mortality for male-specific diseases, as well as improve the health of Maryland men and the State's overall economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, Regular exercise, good nutrition, healthy behaviors, regular medical checkups, preventive health screenings, and diagnostic tests that detect disease early have been proven to save lives; and

WHEREAS, A Commission for ~~Men~~ Men's Health is needed to promote men's health in Maryland; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

~~ARTICLE 49E - MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR MEN~~

Article - Health - General