

## STATE OF MARYLAND

## **Community Health Resources Commission**

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Larry Hogan, Governor; Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor; Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair; Mark Luckner, Executive Director

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For Immediate Release

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## EDWARD J. KASEMEYER APPOINTED CHAIR OF THE MARYLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION BY GOVERNOR HOGAN

(Annapolis)—Governor Hogan has appointed Edward J. Kasemeyer to serve as Chair of the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) effective July 1, 2021. Sen. Kasemeyer succeeds Elizabeth Chung as CHRC Chair, whose term ended June 30, 2021.

"I humbled by the Governor's appointment to serve as CHRC Chair," commented Sen. Kasemeyer. A resident of Howard County, Sen. Kasemeyer has dedicated his life to public service, holding several elected positions in the Maryland General Assembly. During his extensive legislative career, Sen. Kasemeyer served as a Chair of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee for eight years. As a legislator, Sen. Kasemeyer earned numerous accolades from community organizations across the State, including Legislator of the Year from the Mental Health Association of Maryland. He is widely recognized as an expert in budgetary and finance issues by his legislative colleagues, the Administration, and the health care advocacy community.

"Governor Hogan is pleased to appoint former Maryland State Senator Ed Kasemeyer as Community Health Resources Commission Chair," said Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Secretary Dennis R. Schrader. "Chairman Kasemeyer has been a leading advocate for health care accessibility his entire career and we look forward to working closely with him in this new role." The CHRC has supported a number of State public health priorities and initiatives, including supporting the State's response to COVID and the ongoing opioid crisis, as well as the Maryland Diabetes Action plan.

This past legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly approved legislation, "The Maryland Health Equity Act," which provides significant new funding to create Health Equity Resources Communities intended to reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, expand health care access, and reduce health care costs. The CHRC will work with the Maryland Department of Health and other stakeholders to implement the policy objectives of the Health Equity Act.

## ABOUT THE CHRC (health.maryland.gov/mchrc)

The Maryland General Assembly created the Community Health Resources Commission in 2005 to expand access to affordable, high-quality health care services in the state's underserved communities; increase access to specialty health care services for the uninsured and low-income individuals; promote interconnected systems of care and partnerships among community health resources and hospitals; and help reduce avoidable hospital utilization. The CHRC is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health, and its 11 members are appointed by the Governor. The CHRC has awarded 347 grants totaling \$85.9 million, supporting projects in every jurisdiction of the state. These projects have collectively served more than 505,000 Marylanders.

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