

**Senate Bill 82 - Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Renaming
Senate Finance Committee
January 17, 2017
SUPPORT**

Consumer Health First (formerly the Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform), is a nonpartisan, statewide alliance of thousands of individuals and one hundred organizations working to promote health equity through access to high-quality, comprehensive and affordable health care for all Marylanders. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for Senate Bill 82 – Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Renaming.

Consumer Health First is grateful to Chairman Middleton for bringing this bill forward. By removing the antiquated term, "mental hygiene," Maryland would make a strong statement that mental health is an integral part of, and not separate from, one's overall health. In addition, such a name change will help to reduce the stigma that is too often associated with mental health disorders and treatment.

Further, we support the requirement that all materials bearing the current name be fully depleted before new documents are created, which will help to lessen the fiscal impact of such a name change.

Consumer Health First asks for your support of Senate Bill 82 and urges a favorable report.