



F R O M	Name & Title	Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D. Commissioner of Health 	Health Department  MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 210 Guilford Ave.		
	Subject	Council Bill 08-0061R - Informational Hearing - Public Wellness and Disease Prevention Program - City Employees		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o  
409 City Hall

October 11, 2008

The Baltimore City Health Department is pleased to submit comments in response City Council Bill 08-0061R. The purpose of the bill is to invite representatives from Alternative Medicine Integration of Maryland, LLC (AMI), the Baltimore City Health Department, and the Department of Human Resources to discuss the wellness and disease prevention practices currently available to individuals in Baltimore City and throughout the country, and the benefits to Baltimore City of establishing wellness and disease prevention services to the Baltimore City employees and their dependents through a network of non-pharmaceutical and non-surgically oriented doctors of chiropractic.

The effects of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, and other persistent health conditions negatively impact individual and communal productivity at alarming rates. Baltimore City's population is particularly impacted by an increasing incidence of chronic conditions, including diabetes, which jumped from 5.8 % to 10.3% in less than a decade (1995 to 2004). Furthermore, the death rate in Baltimore from diabetes in 2004 was 56% higher than the national diabetes death rate. The disease affects African Americans three to four times more frequently than Caucasians, and is six times more likely to cause blindness in African-Americans.

Due to the severe impact of chronic diseases in Baltimore, the Baltimore City Health Department supports a comprehensive approach to addressing the prevention and treatment needs of Baltimore City residents and employees. We strongly commend the City Council for exploring new ways to promote disease prevention, and we encourage the Council to assess specific proposals based on a sound theory and a thorough assessment of the evidence. The Baltimore City Health Department looks forward to discussing specific proposals with the Council.

Cc: Angela Gibson  
Rianna Brown

*Comments*

