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| F R O M | Name & Title | Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner | Health Department AGENCY REPORT |  |
| | Agency Name & Address | Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201 | | |
| | Subject/ Position: | 21-0056R – Informational Hearing – From Front Door to Schoolhouse Door Favorable | | |

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

December 9, 2021

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #21-0056R, entitled, “From Front Door to Schoolhouse Door.” This resolution invites representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department of Health, Baltimore City Public Schools, Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success and Office of Equity and Civil Rights to discuss our children’s commute to school.”

Both safe transportation and access to quality education are considered key social determinants of health. Social determinants of health are the “conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.”¹ By addressing the environment in which people live, learn, work, and play, we are able to address the “upstream” factors that contribute to a person’s health and well-being and to health disparities.² BCHD understands the importance of a safe travel environment in obtaining quality education, access to recreational opportunities, and preventing added trauma in the lives of our young residents.

BCHD urges a **favorable** report on Council Bill #21-0056R. While we support any opportunities to improve school performance, attendance in extracurricular activities, and safety of young people, BCHD currently does not have an active role in the commute of students on their way to and from school and we therefore defer to the agencies that play a more direct role.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, March 10). About Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved December 9, 2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/about.html>.

² Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.). Social Determinants of Health. Social Determinants of Health - Healthy People 2030. Retrieved December 9, 2021, from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>.