



1001 E. Fayette Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Brandon M. Scott, Mayor
Michelle Taylor, MD, DrPH, MPA, Acting Commissioner of Health

To: Baltimore City Council Legislative Investigations Committee
From: Health Commissioner Search Committee
Date: September 10, 2025
Re: EA25-0033 - Executive Nomination, Dr. Michelle Taylor, Commissioner of Health

Chair Schleifer, Vice Chair Glover, and members of the Committee, it is our pleasure to submit this letter in support of the appointment of Dr. Michelle Taylor as Baltimore City's next Health Commissioner.

Dr. Taylor comes to Baltimore City with a wealth of experience. Not only is she the first nominee for this position who has prior experience as a Health Officer (which in itself qualifies her for the role), she also comes to us with extensive military leadership experience and clinical expertise as a pediatrician.

Dr. Taylor served as the Shelby County Health Officer/Director for the past four years, where she led an agency of 550 employees serving a metro area of nearly a million people. During her tenure, she deftly steered the agency through the Covid-19 pandemic, leading the county's public health response in a state whose political leadership was resistant to evidence-based public health measures. Due to her leadership, Shelby County children experienced lower rates of Covid infection than other metropolitan Tennessee counties. This is just one example of her accomplishments in her previous role.

We conducted an extensive search, interviewing candidates from across the country. We interviewed many qualified candidates, but Dr. Taylor shined amongst the rest. In her interview, we could see the vision and dream she has for Baltimore City. The breadth and depth of her public health expertise and leadership experience are exceptional. Not only did she demonstrate her incomparable ability to lead a health department, but her love of residents and commitment to the health of our communities set her apart. We have full confidence in her ability to lead the Baltimore City Health Department and wholeheartedly recommend her as nominee.

We respectfully request a favorable report on her nomination.

Sincerely,

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Michelle Spencer
Deputy Director, Bloomberg American
Health Initiative Practice Professor,
Department of Health Policy and
Management Johns Hopkins Bloomberg
School of Public Health

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Kevin Lindamood, President & CEO
Health Care for the Homeless

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Yvonne Bronner, ScD
Professor
PI of the HRSA/Morgan State University
Maternal Health Research Coordinating
Center