

WHEREAS, The overall age adjusted mortality rate for minority citizens is 40 percent higher than the rate of white citizens;

WHEREAS, Homicide and accidents are the leading causes of death for young black males between the ages of 15-34;

WHEREAS, While the cancer death rate for nonwhite males has been declining, there has been a significant overall increase in the cancer death rate for minority citizens;

WHEREAS, Minority citizens are twice as likely to be uninsured, four times as likely to be poor and twice as likely to be unemployed as white citizens;

WHEREAS, Minorities, particularly poor minority citizens, are less likely to have access to health care resources; and

WHEREAS, There are remaining disparities by race in a number of other key health indicators;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY HUGHES, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING ORDER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

1. The Commission

There is a Governor's Commission on Black and Minority Health.

2. Membership and Procedures

- A. The Commission shall consist of up to 30 members appointed by the Governor who are representatives of health providers, human resource, education and legal agencies or organizations as well as representatives of local communities and civic groups. Of the members appointed, the Commission shall include:
- (1) One member of the House of Delegates nominated by the Speaker of the House;
  - (2) One member of the Senate nominated by the President of the Senate; and
  - (3) A representative of the Governor's Office.
- B. The Governor shall select the Chairperson of the Council from among the members appointed to the Council.