Make Impactful Public Health Policy Change: Experience the Legislative Process from the Inside of the Maryland General Assembly

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Outline

- Overview of the Maryland General Assembly
- The Legislative Process
- Roles During Session
- The Legislative Process in Context: HB 490
  - Challenges of Passing HB 490
  - Results
- Conclusion
- Questions?
Overview of the Maryland General Assembly

- 90 day session each year
- Bicameral legislature
- Citizen legislators
- Three main roles of legislators
  - Legislation
  - Budgetary
  - Oversight
The Legislative Process

- Bill is introduced
- Committee/Subcommittee Hearings
- Bill is voted on by entire House and Senate
- Bill either signed or vetoed by Governor
Roles During Session

- Tracking legislation of interest
- Research
- Communicating with stakeholders
- Attend hearings
The Legislative Process in Context: House Bill 490

- Sponsored by Delegate Lam
- Goals of Bill
  - Would create an Advisory Board tasked with developing guidelines for certifying Community Health Workers (CHWs)
  - Creates regulations for the Maryland Department of Health regarding CHWs
Challenges of Passing HB 490

- Composition of the Advisory Board
- Refining bill language
- Accommodating interests of many stakeholders
- Time constraints
Result of HB 490

- Extensive amendment process
- Bill passed unanimously in both House and Senate
- Bill moves to Governor to be signed or vetoed
Conclusion

- Legislative process is an important avenue for change
- Limitations on this method's effectiveness and efficiency
- Important for both public health professionals and legislators to communicate with each other effectively
Questions?