



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

HEALTH LITERACY MONTH OCTOBER 2026

- WHEREAS, Health literacy is essential to the health and well-being of Marylanders, enabling individuals, families, and communities to find, understand, and use health information and services to make informed decisions about their health; and
- WHEREAS, Effective health communication requires making health information and services clear, accurate, accessible, actionable, and responsive to the language, cultural, and communication needs of Maryland's diverse communities; and
- WHEREAS, Maryland recognizes that improving health literacy is a public health priority and shared responsibility; Maryland encourages healthcare and public health organizations, government agencies, schools, community organizations, and residents to work together to make health information and services easier to understand, navigate, and use, helping build a healthier and more informed community throughout the State; and
- WHEREAS, The Horowitz Center for Health Literacy at the University of Maryland School of Public Health advances research, education, training, and community partnerships to improve health literacy, while preparing health professionals, educators, and community health workers to communicate clearly and effectively; and
- WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly has designated the Horowitz Center for Health Literacy as Maryland's Consumer Health Information Hub to build collaboration among Maryland organizations and community partners to advance plain language, language access, cultural responsiveness, accessible communication, and organizational health literacy, so Marylanders can more easily find, understand, and use information about health, safety, insurance, and social services; and
- WHEREAS, The Maryland Department of Health guides the process for certifying Community Health Workers, commonly known as CHWs, and accrediting CHW certification training programs to empower frontline public health workers who are trusted members of communities to help individuals and families access health and social services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery; and
- WHEREAS, It is critical to raise awareness of steps that public health and healthcare organizations can take to be more responsive to the health literacy needs of Marylanders.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 2026 as HEALTH LITERACY MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observation to all of our citizens.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of October
Two Thousand and twenty-six



Wes Moore
Governor

Oruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State