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## Southeastern Howard/Laurel Chapter Continental Societies, Inc.

The Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball, Chairman  
Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing on behalf of Southeastern Howard Laurel Chapter, Continental Societies Inc, which is a member of the Howard County African American Community Round Table. We agree wholeheartedly with the statement the Round Table is making in opposition to CB 37-2014, and urge you to vote against this bill and the step backward for public health that it represents.

. The Southeastern Howard Laurel Chapter is a public service organization of women who serve our community by providing a vehicle to foster, promote and develop programs in the areas of Health, Education, Employment, Recreation, Arts and humanities to underserved children and youth. The chapter served many children and youth this year through direct services activities, programs and financial donations to schools in the. Southeastern Howard Laurel Communities

The health of our children is important to us because our children are our future. In our health component our programmatic emphasizes is on childhood obesity, healthy eating, exercise diabetes and, heart disease. We know that certain types of cancer can be traced to unhealthy eating, particularly sugary drinks choices. We understand that a healthy child is a happy child, a good student and is able to navigate through the educational process and is a productive citizen of our county. We believe that every resident of our county should be stakeholders in the health of our children and community by being a part of this effort.

Although we all can make choices about the kinds of beverages we drink and the kinds of foods we eat, the social, physical, economic, and regulatory aspects of our community can make these choices easier or harder. The government has the opportunity to create an environment that makes it easy for each of its citizens to set themselves up for good health in the future. County nutrition standards are a crucial step in ensuring that the healthy choice remains the easy choice. We hope you will not allow this piece of legislation to roll back the tremendous strides in public health that have been achieved in Howard County as a result of efforts to make it easier for kids and families to be healthy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mae A Beale, President  
Southeastern Howard Laurel Chapter  
Continental Societies Inc.