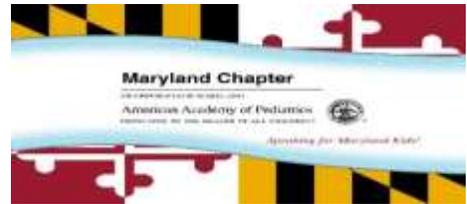


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TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Ronald N. Young

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: March 3, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 542 – *Public School Students – Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 542.

The increasing incidences of childhood obesity, and the significant social and health consequences associated with this public health epidemic are appropriately receiving increased attention from health professionals, educators, and public policy makers. A critical component of any successful strategy to combat childhood obesity is increased physical activity. Given the amount of a child's day that is spent in school, prioritizing the provision of both physical education and physical activity during the school day will produce significant benefits in the health and social well-being of students.

The benefits of physical activity are not limited to efforts to help control weight. Physical activity in children provides a wide range of significant health benefits including, but not limited to, increased muscle strength and aerobic endurance, increased bone mass, and prevention and reduction of high blood pressure. Furthermore, there is increased evidence that academic performance and behavior control is enhanced with increased physical activity.

MedChi and MDAAP applaud the sponsor for his continued leadership on issues regarding childhood obesity, health, and physical education. Senate Bill 542 provides a comprehensive, well-defined approach to incorporating the unquestionable benefits of physical activity into the curriculum of our schools. MedChi and MDAAP strongly urge a favorable report.

For more information call:

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