



# Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital

*Where Children Go to Heal and Grow*

An affiliate of University of Maryland Medical System and Johns Hopkins Medicine

## **Maryland Infant Lifetime Care Trust Senate Bill 879**

### **Before the Senate Finance Committee**

**March 5, 2020**

**Position: Support**

Good Afternoon, my name is Dr. Ajoke Ajayi-Akintade.

I am a board-certified neurodevelopmental pediatrician and the Assistant Medical Director at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. I am also the Director of the Pediatric Complex Care Program (PCCP), a program that transitions children with complex medical diagnoses including severe neurological impairment to home, ensuring that all needed medical and health support are in place to promote ongoing developmental growth and stability. I earned a Master's degree of Occupational Health from Harvard University and completed my pediatric residency at Howard University Hospital, followed by a Neurodevelopmental Disabilities fellowship at Johns Hopkins University.

As a neurodevelopmental pediatrician with more than 20 years of experience I am an untiring advocate of medically fragile children. As such, I know firsthand the unique needs of these children with neurological injuries, genetic birth defects and complex medical conditions. As the director of the Pediatric Complex Care Program, my team and I care for the most medically complex and fragile newborns and children in Maryland, each and every day.

I am here in support of SB 879 - the Maryland Infant Lifetime Care Trust. Less than 1 % of children in the US have such complex medical diagnoses--approximately seven children per year in the state of Maryland. As the neurodevelopment pediatrician at MWPH, I receive about five of these seven cases each year so I know what it takes to care for a child with such disabilities. The child's pediatrician is in the best position to plan for the course of treatment because they interact with the child on a routine basis and monitor the child's improvements and regressions.

This Trust and the mechanics of determining the child's needs by the treating physician and making the monies available for the care or necessary accommodations when they are needed is the best course of action. This Trust would ensure that the child receives the best quality of care by providing adequate funds, when needed, to support the development of the child throughout their entire lifetime, and ensuring that the course of treatment is determined by an unbiased expert who actually treats the child during the course of the child's life.

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and by Commission on Accreditation  
of Rehabilitation Facilities

[mwph.org](http://mwph.org)

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The Infant Lifetime Care Trust is a just and equitable plan of action for Maryland. I urge a favorable vote on SB 879.

Sincerely,

Ajoke Ajayi-Akintade, MD, FAAP, MOH  
Assistant Medical Director  
Neurodevelopmental Pediatrician  
Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital

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