

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Terri L. Hill

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

DATE: March 6, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** (sponsor amendment) – House Bill 1375 –
Public School Students – Vision Services and the Vision for Maryland Program

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (MSEPS), we submit this letter of **support with amendments (sponsor)** for House Bill 1375. House Bill 1375 makes pediatric vision a priority and addresses gaps in care for at-risk students. MSEPS and MedChi support evidence-based, cost-effective means for screening children for eye health and vision in order to ensure that each child has the optimal opportunity for learning during preschool and school years.

Based on previously enacted legislation, the following work has either been accomplished or is ongoing with the assistance of Maryland pediatric ophthalmologists. These efforts include working with the Maryland State Department of Education to create parental educational material for all children, including information on the difference between vision screening and eye exams and who should have a comprehensive eye exam (instead of only a vision screening) There is also a workgroup in progress to develop methods to assist local jurisdictions in improving follow-up care for children who fail a vision screening and who have not obtained the recommended eye care.

We believe these steps are making valuable progress to improving pediatric vision care for children across Maryland. House Bill 1375 complements these efforts with the sponsor amendments. We urge a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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