

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Shaneka Henson

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: March 30, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 976 – *Mold Assessment and Remediation – Standards*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 976.

House Bill 976, as amended, requires the Maryland Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Department of Health, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of General Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, industrial hygienists, and other professionals actively involved in mold contamination remediation, to adopt regulations that establish uniform standards for mold assessment and remediation by June 1, 2025, and include certain provisions and standards that should be reflected in any regulations adopted.

Exposure to damp and moldy environments may cause a variety of health effects. For people who are sensitive to molds, exposure to molds can lead to symptoms such as stuffy nose, wheezing, and red or itchy eyes, or skin. Some people, such as those with allergies to molds or with asthma, may have more intense reactions. Severe reactions may include fever and shortness of breath. In 2004, the Institute of Medicine found there was sufficient evidence to link indoor exposure to mold with upper respiratory tract symptoms, cough, and wheeze in otherwise healthy people, asthma symptoms in people with asthma, and hypersensitivity pneumonitis in individuals susceptible to that immune-mediated condition.

Passage of House Bill 976 will provide uniform standards and regulatory requirements for mold assessment and remediation and protect Maryland citizens who reside in rental units from the harmful effects of mold. A favorable report is requested.