

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Shaneka Henson

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DATE: March 1, 2023

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

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

House Bill 976 requires the Maryland Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Department of Health, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of General Services, to establish uniform standards for mold assessment and remediation by June 1, 2025, and includes 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.