

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Arthur Ellis

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: March 12, 2024

RE: **LETTER OF INFORMATION** – Senate Bill 1061 – *Employee Autoimmune Disorder Protection Act*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, is pleased to submit this **letter of information** on Senate Bill 1061, which would prohibit an employer from requiring an employee to work on-site if the employee provides documentation from a physician or other licensed health care practitioner that the employee has been diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder or other qualifying illness.

MedChi supports the intent of this legislation and has seen that there are patients with many types of diseases and conditions that would benefit from being able to work from home. Particularly in light of improvements to remote work since the COVID-19 pandemic, patients with certain diseases should be afforded this opportunity as it would be most beneficial to their course of treatment.

We submit this letter of information to note, however, that consideration should be given to modifying or expanding the list of disorders included in the bill. As drafted, the list appears to be a somewhat arbitrary list of disorders, when there are other disorders and diseases, such as cancer, where a patient would benefit from working from home. MedChi would recommend striking the list and developing broad criteria for qualifying conditions or expanding the list to capture more diseases, specifically. MedChi would be pleased to provide feedback on such an amendment.

Thank you for your consideration.