

MDCSCO

MARYLAND/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Malcolm Augustine

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
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J. Steven Wise
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DATE: March 27, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 938 – *Maryland Department of Health – Public Education Campaign on Prostate, Lung, and Breast Cancer Prevention*

The Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology (MDCSCO) **supports** Senate Bill 938. The bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to develop and implement a public education campaign on prostate, lung, and breast cancer prevention that targets communities disproportionately impacted by these types of cancers. The public education campaign must be developed by December 1, 2026. The campaign will be funded from the Cigarette Restitution Fund with an appropriation of no more than \$750,000 for fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

MDCSCO supports efforts by the Maryland Department of Health to fulfill its important function of educating the public about cancer prevention. Early detection is critical to accurate diagnosis and successful treatment. The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected the rate of screening, and we have still not fully rebounded to pre-COVID levels. Therefore, education is key to ensuring that individuals are taking advantage of their health insurance and any additional programs that offer free or low-cost screening. MDCSCO urges a favorable vote.