



The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Jamila J. Woods

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
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DATE: March 6, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1293 – *Maryland Department of Health – Public Education Campaign on Prostate, Lung, and Breast Cancer Prevention*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), and the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology (MDCSCO), **supports with amendment** House Bill 1293. 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, 2025. The campaign will be funded from the Cigarette Restitution Fund with an appropriation of no more than \$2 million for fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

MedChi and MDCSCO support all efforts by MDH to fulfill its important function of educating the public about cancer prevention. With regards to House Bill 1293, MedChi and MDCSCO are supportive with an amendment to add colon cancer to the list of cancers covered in MDH's public education campaign. Colon cancer is highly preventable and curable when detected early through regular screening tests, such as stool-based screening tests and colonoscopies. However, disparities in access to healthcare and screening services contribute to higher rates of late-stage diagnoses among minority populations. By including colon cancer in the public education campaign, we can raise awareness about the importance of screening and empower individuals to take proactive steps towards prevention and early detection. By expanding the focus of the public education campaign to include colon cancer, we can ensure that individuals have access to accurate information, resources, and support for preventing and managing this disease alongside other cancers with a high incidence and mortality rate.

With the adoption of the amendment, MedChi and MDCSCO support House Bill 1293.