

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 Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joe Vogel

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

DATE: February 21, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 370 – *Maryland Department of Health – Study on the Effects of and Preparedness for Long COVID-19*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 370. The bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with the Department of Labor, and the Department of Human Services, to conduct a study on the effects of and preparedness for long COVID-19.

Studying the effects of long COVID-19 is critical for informing public health policies, healthcare planning, risk assessment, and public awareness efforts aimed at addressing the ongoing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to develop effective public health strategies to prevent and manage long COVID-19, public health officials must understand the full spectrum of the disease's impact on individuals and communities. Similarly, understanding the diverse symptoms and challenges of long COVID-19 helps healthcare systems plan for and allocate resources to meet the needs of affected individuals. Analyzing health data trends on demographic groups and geographic areas, as described in the bill, may highlight risk factors associated with long COVID-19, which can help identify populations that may be at higher risk of developing persistent symptoms. This information can inform targeted interventions and direct resources to these vulnerable populations. MedChi urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

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