

**HB672 Public Health - Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund - Entities Eligible for Grants  
FAVORABLE**

Health Committee  
February 17, 2026

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee –

On behalf of the University of Maryland's Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMGCCC), I write to express our strong support for **HB672 Public Health - Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund - Entities Eligible for Grants**. This legislation, which would alter eligibility for grants from the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund to include additional qualified nonprofit institutions, represents a meaningful opportunity to strengthen pediatric cancer research and improve outcomes for families with children who are facing cancer in our State.

As one of Maryland's only two National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers, UMGCCC is committed to advancing innovative research, enhancing clinical care, and improving health outcomes for patients of all ages. Our pediatric oncology researchers and clinicians are deeply engaged in efforts to translate laboratory discoveries into new and more effective therapies for childhood cancers. Expanding access to funding through the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund will enable nonprofit institutions like ours to further collaborate, accelerate research, and bring cutting-edge treatments from bench-to-bedside for the children and families who need them most.

Pediatric cancer remains the leading cause of disease-related death among children in Maryland, yet childhood cancers receive a disproportionately small share of cancer research funding. HB672 aligns with our mission to reduce the burden of cancer in Maryland and beyond. By streamlining the scope of eligible grant recipients, the General Assembly can help ensure that critical research and support services are more fully resourced, driving progress toward better cures and care for pediatric patients. UMGCCC strongly encourages a favorable committee report on HB672.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue and for your continued support of UMGCCC. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions at 410.703.5352 or [jeanette.ortiz@umaryland.edu](mailto:jeanette.ortiz@umaryland.edu), or if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq.  
*Director of Government Affairs*