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TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Shaneka Henson

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
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DATE: March 4, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1540 – *Environment – Mold Inspections – Standards, Reporting, and Penalties*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1540.

House Bill 1540 requires the Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, the State Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of General Services, to adopt regulations on or establishing uniform standards for mold assessment and remediation. Local jurisdictions are required to conduct an annual mold inspection of public and private school facilities; licensed child care centers; nursing homes; assisted living facilities for the elderly; and rental dwellings located in that jurisdiction and imposes various restrictions and penalties for failure to remediate.

Exposure to damp and moldy environments may cause a variety of health effects. For people who are sensitive to molds, exposure to molds can lead to symptoms such as stuffy nose, wheezing, and red or itchy eyes, or skin. Some people, such as those with allergies to molds or with asthma, may have more intense reactions. Severe reactions may include fever and shortness of breath. In 2004, the Institute of Medicine found there was sufficient evidence to link indoor exposure to mold with upper respiratory tract symptoms, cough, and wheeze in otherwise healthy people, asthma symptoms in people with asthma, and hypersensitivity pneumonitis in individuals susceptible to that immune-mediated condition.

Passage of House Bill 1540 will provide uniform regulatory requirements of mold assessment and remediation and protect Maryland citizens from the harmful effects of mold. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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