



TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Michele Guyton

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 25, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 392 – *Family Child Care Homes, Large Family Child Care Homes, and Child Care Centers – Early Childhood Screening and Assistance*

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 392.

House Bill 392 requires the Maryland State Department of Education to establish guidelines for early childhood developmental screenings for children younger than an age that can be provided by childcare centers to assess a child's progress through early childhood development milestones and screen for potential disabilities. The childcare centers must offer a parent or guardian the opportunity for their child to be evaluated and if a child is screened to share the results of the screening with the parent or guardian, including information on services available through the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program and assistance in contacting the local lead agency.

Developmental screenings of young children are a critical component of comprehensive well-child and preventative health care services. While developmental screenings are an integral part of the services provided by a child's primary care provider, not all parents or guardians appreciate the importance of well-child visits and preventative services such as screenings and fail to pursue the provision of those services for their child. Authorizing childcare centers to do developmental screenings and share the findings, including information about Maryland's Infant and Toddlers program, will help increase the identification of children in need of further services.

While MDAAP looks forward to working in the future with relevant stakeholders to include communication with a child's primary care provider in the framework of childcare center screening, House Bill 392 establishes a sound and reliable framework to enhance access to critical developmental screening and referral for needed services. MDAAP requests a favorable report.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000