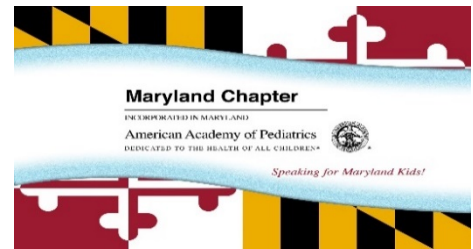




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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Antonio Hayes

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

DATE: February 11, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 378 – *Baltimore City – Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices – Local Laws Authorization*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support** Senate Bill 378.

Senate Bill 378 authorizes the City of Baltimore to enact and enforce local laws regulating the sale, distribution, and packaging of tobacco and tobacco-related products. Local control over matters designed to protect the public’s health have numerous benefits that are lost when local power is preempted. Local authority provides for greater accountability and a more responsive and proactive approach to addressing needs of their community. The development of public policy at the local level also creates community engagement and a broader base of public understanding and investment in the intended objectives.

The City of Baltimore faces a public health crisis fueled by the availability of tobacco products and the prevalence of tobacco use. Passage of Senate Bill 378 will enable Baltimore City to do more at the local level in coordination and consistence with the authority granted by state law to curb these alarming trends and improve the health of its residents. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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