

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 Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Members, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Anne Healey

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

DATE: January 25, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 164 – *Institutions of Higher Education – Pregnant Students – Policy*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 164.

House Bill 164 seeks to address the issues that students who are pregnant, have recently given birth, or are non-birth parents face in attempting to advance their education, while addressing the demands associated with pregnancy and early parenthood demands. House Bill 164 requires higher education institutions to adopt policies that prohibit a requirement for pregnant students to take a leave of absence; allows pregnant students, students who have recently given birth, and non-birth parents to take a leave of absence and return in good academic standing; and requires the adoption of policies related to pregnancy discrimination awareness and other issues that impact pregnant students.

Academic success is a key factor in enabling students to become productive, self-sufficient individuals who can advance professionally and personally. The added challenges of pregnancy and the initial months after delivery can negatively impact a student, despite a desire and commitment to complete their education and advance their professional development. Passage of House Bill 164 will help ensure that institutions of higher education have policies that support the success and advancement of their students who experience a pregnancy or birth of a child. It will enhance the likelihood of success for these students as well as their ability to support their families. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

J. Steven Wise

Danna L. Kauffman

Christine K. Krone

410-244-7000