

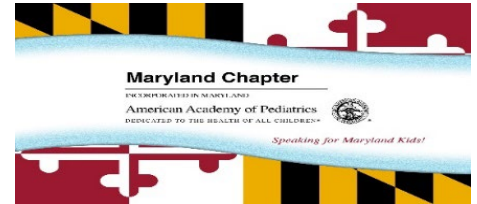


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TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Members, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
The Honorable Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.

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

DATE: March 22, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1110 – *Environment – Lead Poisoning Prevention – Elevated Blood Lead Level*

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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** for House Bill 1110.

House Bill 1110 provides a framework for Maryland’s blood lead reference value (BLRV) and lead risk reduction framework to meet current public health standards on lead poisoning set by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and to continue to remain in line with CDC standards, should the CDC lower their standards further in the future. Maryland changed its “action” level on elevated blood lead levels (EBL) from 10 micrograms/deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ ) to 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$  in 2018, to reflect CDC guidance. In October 2021, the CDC lowered the level to 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ . House Bill 1110 would bring Maryland in conformity with this latest reference value of 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$  and, further, would provide that going forward Maryland will adopt any new CDC reference level within one year after the CDC acts.

The CDC sets a BLRV in order to identify children with higher levels of lead in their blood compared with levels in most children. Ensuring that Maryland aligns with the CDC BLRV going forward will ensure that children and families benefit from state action sooner, thereby lowering the negative impact that lead exposure has on a child’s development and health. Passage of House Bill 1110 further strengthens Maryland’s existing commitment to comprehensively address lead exposure and its consequences. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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