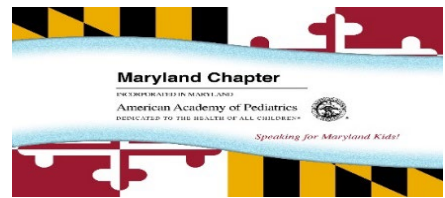




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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Edith J. Patterson

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

DATE: March 7, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 1185 – *Public Health – Sickle Cell Disease – Referral for Transcranial Doppler Ultrasound*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **opposition** for House Bill 1185.

House Bill 1185 requires a physician or an advanced practice nurse to refer on an annual basis, minor patients whom the physician or advanced practice nurse knows to have sickle cell disease to a hematologist who specializes in sickle cell disease for a transcranial doppler ultrasound.

Even if annual transcranial doppler ultrasounds are currently recommended for minors known to have sickle cell, legislating clinical care is an approach to addressing health care issues that is respectfully opposed by the physician community. Standards of care change and revising statutes to stay current with standards of care cannot realistically be accomplished. MedChi and MDAAP recognize the ongoing challenges in addressing the healthcare needs of minors with the sickle cell trait and sickle cell disease. However, legislating care in statute will only serve to undermine the efforts to enhance health outcomes for these minors. An unfavorable report is requested.

For more information call:
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