



TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Benjamin F. Kramer

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 15, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 249 – *Motor Vehicle Administration – Driver Education Program – Cannabis*

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 Senate Bill 249.

Senate Bill 249 will require the Motor Vehicle Administration to include information on the laws relating to, and the risks of, driving while under the influence of cannabis in the curriculum for a standardized driver education program.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has a policy statement on *The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update*. The policy statement clearly outlines the consequences of marijuana use which includes “...impaired short-term memory and decreased concentration, attention span, and problem solving, ... Alterations in motor control, coordination, judgment, reaction time, and tracking ability have also been documented; these may contribute to unintentional deaths and injuries among adolescents (especially those associated with motor vehicles if adolescents drive while intoxicated by marijuana)”.¹

For the reasons stated in the policy statement, MDAAP strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 249 so that young drivers are aware of the implications while driving under the influence.

¹ PEDIATRICS (ISSN Numbers: Print, 0031-4005; Online, 1098-4275). (2015, March). The impact of marijuana policies on youth: Clinical, research ... - AAPVT. American Academy of Pediatrics. Retrieved February 14, 2023, from <http://aapvt.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/AAPPPolicyStatement.pdf>