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TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
            Members, House Economic Matters Committee
            Chair, House Economic Matters Committee (Maryland Department of Health)

FROM: Christine K. Krone
            Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
            Steven Wise
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DATE: February 20, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 238 – *Public Health – Clean Indoor Act – Revisions*

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 238.

Maryland's Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007 was created to protect the health of Maryland residents by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke in indoor public places and workplaces. The act prohibits smoking in various indoor areas, including restaurants, bars, workplaces, and public transportation vehicles. It also mandates that certain outdoor areas near entrances to buildings be designated as smoke-free zones. House Bill 238 updates the Clean Indoor Act to include vaping, in addition to smoking, as prohibited in indoor places. While vaping doesn't produce traditional smoke, it does emit vapor that may contain harmful chemicals. These chemicals are generally present at lower levels than in cigarette smoke, however they can still pose health risks, especially with long-term exposure. Reducing secondhand exposure helps create healthier environments for everyone, especially children and nonsmokers who may be negatively affected by secondhand smoke.

House Bill 238 reflects a reasonable extension of Maryland's current clean indoor air act prohibitions, and a favorable report is requested.

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