



The Maryland State Medical Society
63711 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 263701-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org



TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary

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

DATE: March 27, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 558 – *Primary and Secondary Education – Comprehensive Health Education Framework – Established*

On behalf of The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 558.

MedChi and MDAAP are very supportive of the objectives of House Bill 558, which would require the Maryland State Department of Education, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, to develop a comprehensive health education framework. The bill specifies that the framework shall, at a minimum, include a number of topics, which are critical to enhancing the awareness and understanding of youth about significant issues that could ultimately impact their health and well-being. These topics include health promotion, mental and emotional health, substance abuse prevention, family life and human sexuality, gender identity and sexual orientation, safety and violence prevention, healthy eating, and disease prevention and control.

The above-named organizations recognize and support the provision of comprehensive and age-appropriate health education. Many of the subject areas identified in the legislation reflect issues that all youth should be informed about and should have an opportunity to engage in better understanding their implications. Without comprehensive education programs in the schools, many students will not have an avenue to gain the education and insight that would be provided through the required curriculum. We urge a favorable report.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
410-244-7000