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Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Senate Finance Committee
February 13, 2025

Senate Bill 149 – *Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports Senate Bill 149.

Senate Bill 149 would establish the Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation Payment Program in the Department of the Environment to secure payment from certain businesses that extract fossil fuels or refine petroleum products in order to provide a source of revenue for State efforts to adapt to or mitigate the effects of climate change and to address the health impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations.

MedChi recognizes climate change as a public health issue. Fossil fuel production is associated with respiratory disease, heart disease and strokes, lung and other cancers, effects on brain function and children’s ability to learn, childhood asthma, and premature births and low birth weight. In addition, climate change causes extreme heat events, storms, flooding, droughts, and wildfires, resulting in deaths, injuries, and a myriad of serious diseases. Additionally, climate change disproportionately impacts certain groups due to historical and structural inequalities, including low-income communities, communities of color, immigrants, unsheltered people, certain indoor and outdoor workers, and others.

For these reasons, MedChi has resolved to support state legislation and regulations that move Maryland away from fossil fuel use to pollution-free, renewable energy. Taking such actions will help the State to reap immediate and ongoing health and equity benefits. The Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation Payment Program and the funding mechanisms established by the bill will help the State to mitigate the public health impacts of climate change. For these reasons, we support Senate Bill 149.

For more information call:

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