



House Ways and Means Committee  
March 5, 2025  
House Bill 1272 – *Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission*  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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 House Bill 1272.

House Bill 1272 establishes a Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission to study evidence-based policies and practices for maximizing safety; seek input from nationally recognized youth sports organizations; study ways to reduce risk of injury; and make recommendations for implementation of evidence-based best practices to minimize risk and maximize safety for youth athletes. The membership of the Commission includes a broad range of stakeholders with expertise in youth sports, treatment of injuries, and other services relevant to enhancing the safety of youth sports. The Commission must report its findings and recommendations by December 31, 2026, to the Governor, the Maryland State Board of Education, Maryland Department of Health, and the General Assembly.

Participation in sports offers many benefits to student athletes but they also risk injury. Children and youth injuries are different than injuries to adults. Kids are still growing physically, cognitively, and emotionally. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, youth sport related injuries are on the rise. Passage of House Bill 1272 will help to proactively address the health of young athletes, maximize safety, and identify ways to reduce injury. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

Christine K. Krone  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
410-244-7000