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House Ways and Means Committee
House Economic Matters Committee
March 6, 2025

House Bill 1469 – *Taxes – Sugary Beverage Distributor Tax (For Our Kids Act)*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports House Bill 1469, which aims to improve public health outcomes by addressing the consumption of sugar-laden beverages and unhealthy dietary habits that contribute to chronic disease. As Maryland's foremost advocate for physician and patient well-being, MedChi recognizes the urgent need to take legislative action to combat the rising rates of obesity, diabetes, and other preventable health conditions.

MedChi has a long-standing commitment to public health, including efforts to reduce the consumption of added sugars among children. We were a founding member of **Sugar Free Kids Maryland**, the state's leading coalition dedicated to reducing childhood obesity and preventing chronic disease. Since its inception, Sugar Free Kids has worked to create healthier environments for Maryland's children through advocacy, education, and policy change. This coalition, composed of medical professionals, public health experts, and community organizations, has been instrumental in advancing policies that promote access to healthier food and beverage options.

MedChi urges a favorable report on this legislation and stands ready to collaborate with lawmakers and community partners to ensure a healthier future for all Marylanders.

For more information call:

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