



Senate Finance Committee
February 25, 2026
Senate Bill 570 – *Public Health – Baby Food Testing – Definition of Baby Food*
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 Senate Bill 570.

MDAAP strongly supports the bill's goal of expanding coverage under the prior heavy metals in baby foods law. It is entirely appropriate and necessary to include infant formula and infant cereals within the scope of required testing. Infants are uniquely vulnerable to toxic exposures during critical stages of development, and products intended to be a primary or sole source of nutrition must meet the highest safety standards.

In particular, the inclusion of infant cereals is a positive and well-justified step. Infant rice cereal has been repeatedly identified in past testing as a potential source of arsenic exposure, and expanding testing requirements will help reduce preventable risks to infants and young children.

Similarly, recent formula recalls have highlighted the importance of proactive safety measures in the infant formula supply. Ensuring that infant formulas are routinely tested for heavy metals is a reasonable and responsible safeguard that promotes child health and consumer confidence.

Senate Bill 570 represents a thoughtful expansion of existing protections and reflects a commitment to evidence-based public health policy. By strengthening oversight of products specifically designed for infants, the bill helps protect Maryland's youngest residents during a critical period of growth and development.

For these reasons, MDAAP urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 570.

For more information call:

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