



Senate Finance Committee

March 31, 2026

House Bill 1434 – *Maryland Department of Health – Caregiver Resource Webpage – Establishment*

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 1434.

House Bill 1434 would require the Maryland Department of Health to develop and maintain a centralized caregiver resource webpage that provides plain language, easily accessible information, and links to services for caregivers across the State. This includes resources to support caregivers of children with disabilities and special health care needs, as well as those caring for adults and older individuals with chronic illness, behavioral health needs, or cognitive impairment.

Pediatricians work closely with families who are navigating complex medical, developmental, educational, and social service systems. Many caregivers struggle to identify available supports, leading to delays in care, increased stress, and avoidable health complications for children with special health care needs. A centralized, user friendly resource hub would help families access critical services more efficiently and improve care coordination across health and community settings.

This legislation represents a practical and cost-effective strategy to strengthen support for caregivers and resource accessibility for patients. Improving access to information can help reduce unnecessary emergency department visits, prevent caregiver burnout, and promote better health outcomes for children and adolescents with chronic conditions and disabilities.

For these reasons, MDAAP requests a favorable report on House Bill 1434.

For more information call:

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