



Senate Finance Committee
February 18, 2026
Senate Bill 495 – *Health – Newborn Screening Program – Gaucher Disease*
LETTER OF INFORMATION

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 information for Senate Bill 495.

Senate Bill 495 proposes adding Gaucher disease to Maryland’s newborn screening panel. While we recognize the importance of expanding early detection for treatable conditions, we offer this information to clarify how the newborn screening process is currently implemented in Maryland.

Currently, Gaucher disease is not included on the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP), which lists conditions the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends for universal newborn screening. Typically, states follow recommendations on the RUSP. Importantly, Maryland law allows the state to add conditions to the newborn screening panel independently of the RUSP, provided the Department and Advisory Council follow the established review and approval process.

In Maryland, the Department of Health, in consultation with the State Advisory Council on Hereditary and Congenital Disorders, has the authority to recommend which conditions are added to the newborn screening panel. This process allows for careful consideration of state-specific factors, including:

- The prevalence of the condition within Maryland’s population.
- Availability of reliable diagnostic tests and follow-up treatment resources.
- Capacity of the Maryland Newborn Screening Program to perform testing and coordinate care.

MDAAP supports the goals of Senate Bill 495 to expand early detection of treatable conditions, and we appreciate the Legislature’s attention to newborn health. We offer this information to ensure that any addition to the screening panel continues to follow Maryland’s established process, which balances timely implementation with careful evaluation of state-specific considerations, testing capacity, and follow-up care. By maintaining this structured approach, we can ensure that newborns receive accurate screening and appropriate clinical support, maximizing the benefits of early detection while safeguarding program quality.

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