



Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
April 2, 2026

House Bill 1383 – *Children in Need of Assistance – Permanency Plan Requirements*  
**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 1383.

This legislation signifies meaningful reform toward ensuring that children involved in Maryland's child welfare system are not left in prolonged uncertainty, but instead achieve the safe, stable, and permanent homes that are essential to their health and development.

From a pediatric perspective, permanency is a medical and developmental necessity. Children require consistent, nurturing relationships with caregivers to support healthy brain development, emotional regulation, and long-term physical health. When children experience instability or extended time in foster care without a clear path to permanency, the consequences are profound and well-documented: increased rates of toxic stress, developmental delays, behavioral health conditions, and chronic disease later in life.

House Bill 1383 appropriately centers the best interests of the child by strengthening how permanency decisions are made. It recognizes that delays in achieving permanency are harmful. This bill helps ensure that court determinations more clearly prioritize timely permanency and do not allow children to remain in temporary placements without a defined and appropriate long-term plan.

Children in the child welfare system already face disproportionately high rates of medical complexity, trauma exposure, and unmet behavioral health needs. For these children, stability is the foundation upon which all effective care depends. A permanent home provides continuity in medical care, consistency in relationships, and the secure environment necessary for healing and growth.

For these reasons, the MDAAP urges a favorable report on House Bill 1383. Ensuring that children achieve permanency without unnecessary delay is essential to protecting their health, development, and future.

**For more information call:**

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