



House Ways and Means Committee

March 4, 2026

House Bill 1046 – *School and School-Sponsored Activities - Report of Suspected Abuse or Neglect - Parental Notification*

POSITION: OPPOSE

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 opposition for House Bill 1046.

While MDAAP appreciates the intent behind HB 1046, we oppose this legislation because it would alter existing legal and clinical standards in ways that may, in certain circumstances, place children at risk of harm. Maryland's current child abuse reporting framework allows child protective services and trained professionals to assess safety concerns and determine the appropriate timing and method of parental notification. This flexibility is critical.

Requiring notification within a fixed timeframe could inadvertently compromise ongoing investigations, escalate unsafe family dynamics, or place a child at increased risk if concerns extend beyond the immediate scope of the report. Pediatricians regularly encounter complex family situations in which careful coordination with child protective authorities is necessary to protect the child's safety and well-being.

For these reasons, MDAAP respectfully urges the Committee to maintain the existing statutory framework and oppose House Bill 1046.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone

J. Steven Wise

Danna L. Kauffman

Andrew G. Vetter

410-244-7000