

TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman  
Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Sheila Hixson, Chairman  
Members, House Ways & Means Committee  
The Honorable Heather Mizeur

FROM: Joseph A. Schwartz, III  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise

DATE: March 18, 2010

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1375 – *Kids First Express Lane Eligibility Act*

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On behalf of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we support House Bill 1375.

House Bill 1375 removes the sunset on the requirement that families indicate whether their children have health care coverage on their tax returns. This initiative was originally enacted to identify those families who had children eligible for Medicaid and MCHP who were not enrolled. It seeks to address a long recognized challenge – how to identify those who should be covered but are not. House Bill 1375 enhances the original program by requiring DHMH and the Comptroller's office to enter into a data sharing agreement to allow the Comptroller to forward information about families that appear to be eligible for Medicaid or MCHP and further requires to DHMH to send enrollment information to those families that they determine may be eligible upon the Department's review of the families tax information.

MedChi and MDAAP applaud the sponsor for her commitment to continue to identify mechanisms for identifying children who are eligible for the comprehensive coverage afforded under Medicaid and MCHP. The process delineated in House Bill 1375 requires minimal State resources but will assist in providing coverage to the State's most vulnerable population. MedChi and MDAAP urge a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

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