

SCHWARTZ, METZ & WISE, P.A.

ATTORNEYS

20 WEST STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TEL: 410-244-7000

FAX: 410-269-5443

TO: The Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Susan McComas

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

DATE: March 12, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1389 – *Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuses and Neglect*

On behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) and the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), we support House Bill 1389 with amendments.

House Bill 1389 establishes a Task Force to comprehensively study a number of critical issues that impact the state's Child Protective Services programs and the ability of the state to prevent and address child abuse and neglect. The above named organizations have long been proponents of a comprehensive approach to evaluating the shortfalls in our current system. Unlike many of the bills which come before this Committee that address one particular component of the child abuse and neglect challenges, this Task Force will look at the system as a whole.

The above named organization would make one note, however, in the composition of the Task Force. The membership does not include representatives from the physician community who treat the children who have been subjected to abuse and neglect. The pediatric physician community is a critical component of an effective and comprehensive system to identify, prevent and treat child abuse and neglect. We respectfully request that the Task Force membership be amended to include a representative from the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. With its amendment noted, a favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Joseph A. Schwartz, III
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
(410) 244-7000