



The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Maryland Chapter

TO: The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Karen Lewis Young

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 8, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 427 – *Public Schools – Student Sunscreen Use – Policy*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 427.

House Bill 427 requires each county board to adopt a written policy authorizing a student to possess and use sunscreen on school property or at a school-sponsored activity without written permission from a health care provider. With approval of a parent or guardian, the policy would authorize a public-school employee to apply sunscreen to a student who is unable to self-apply or to assist a student in the application. Moreover, each county board must encourage public schools to educate students about sunscreen, sun safety, and the county board's policy on possession and use of sunscreen on school property or at school-sponsored activities.

Children and teenagers engage in outdoor activities during the hours when ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun are the strongest. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 2017 Skin Cancer Prevention Progress Report, over 50% of high school students are sunburned each year. On its Sun Safety Tips for Schools webpage, the CDC explains that just “[o]ne bad sunburn in childhood doubles the risk of skin cancer later in life.” However, even moderate exposure to UV rays during childhood can contribute to skin cancer later in life.

Currently, 5 million people are treated for skin cancer each year in the United States. By promoting sun safety education and the use of sunscreen in public schools, House Bill 427 will reduce the chances that children and teenagers receive a skin cancer diagnosis in adulthood.

For more information call:

Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000