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American Academy of Pediatrics

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Maryland Chapter

TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Members, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Mary L. Washington

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
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DATE: March 13, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1224 – *Ending Youth Homelessness Act of 2018*

We submit this letter on behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) in **support** for House Bill 1224.

House Bill 1224 creates an Ending Homeless Youth Grant Fund within the Department of Housing and Community Development. The grant program is to be a competitive performance-based grant program to provide funds to housing supportive services for unaccompanied homeless youth and youth at risk of homelessness. The program must be voluntary and individualized and will be required to be accountable for performance standards. Grants are to be allocated based on an assessment of the gaps in existing resources with a primary focus on ensuring access to permanent affordable housing. The program must engage current and former homeless youth in the development of the program as well as ongoing performance assessments.

Data shows that children's health and housing security are closely intertwined, and children without homes are more likely to suffer from chronic disease, hunger and malnutrition. Moreover, according to data provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Maryland State Department of Education, and Maryland Youth Reach Kids, nearly 20,000 youth in Maryland experience homelessness each year. Clearly, there is an unmet need for more street and community-based outreach and drop-in programs, emergency shelters, and other housing programs. As such, MedChi and MDAAP support House Bill 1224 and urge a favorable report.

For more information call:

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