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MARYLAND/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY



TO: The Honorable C. T. Wilson, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Diana M. Fennell

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 9, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 477 – *Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices*
– *Local Law Authorization*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support** House Bill 477.

House Bill 477 authorizes a county or municipality to enact and enforce local laws regulating the sale and distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices. Local control over matters designed to protect the public’s health have numerous benefits that are often lost when local power is preempted. Local authority provides for greater accountability and a more responsive and proactive approach to addressing the needs of a community. The development of public policy at the local level also creates community engagement and a broader base of public understanding and investment in the intended objectives.

Tobacco use has significant public health implications. Enabling local authorities to enact and enforce legislation that addresses the unique circumstances of their communities, will result in the development of more responsive and effective policies. It will enable local authorities to address the negative public health impacts of tobacco use and improve the health of its residents. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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