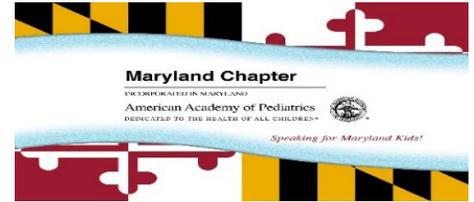




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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

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

DATE: March 14, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1084 – *COVID-19 Response Act of 2022*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1084, **with the amendments offered by the Sponsor**.

House Bill 1084 is an emergency bill that includes a number of requirements for action by the Maryland Department of Health, Medicaid, assisted living, home health agencies, nursing homes, and higher education institutions relative to Maryland’s COVID-19 response. MedChi and MDAAP have no objection to these COVID-19 provisions. However, there were two new initiatives included in the bill, which they believed had the potential for significant unintended consequences and/or required more careful consideration. These included the provisions that removed the current sunset on a pharmacist’s authority to administer vaccines to minors aged 3 and older without a prescription that was addressed through legislation enacted last year (Senate Bill 736/House Bill 1040), which authorized the administration for two years and required a comprehensive study of issues relative to vaccine access by children, including the impact on well child visit rates. The bill also included an expansion of scope for pharmacists and a significant expansion of scope for pharmacy technicians. These scope of practice expansions created significant risks for patient safety, given adverse reactions and other patient safety issues associated with the delegation of vaccine administration and permitting unauthorized refills of prescriptions.

MedChi and MDAAP would like to recognize the sponsor for her willingness to work with stakeholders prior to the hearing to address their concerns. The sponsor’s amendments delete the provisions described above and therefore removes their concerns with respect to this legislation. With the acceptance of the sponsor’s amendments a favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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