



The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Edith J. Patterson

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

DATE: March 7, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1188 – *Public Health – Sickle Cell Disease and Trait – Information for Individuals and Health Care Practitioners*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support with amendment** for House Bill 1188.

House Bill 1188 requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to establish and implement a system of providing information on the sickle cell trait or thalassemia trait to individuals diagnosed with the sickle cell trait or the thalassemia trait or an individual’s family if the individual is a minor. It requires MDH to maintain on its website a list of resources for health care practitioners to use to improve their understanding and clinical treatment of individuals with sickle cell or the sickle cell trait.

House Bill 1188 also requires the health professional boards to include on their licensure renewal application information regarding the sickle cell resources MDH is required to post on its website. MedChi and MDAAP request that this requirement be removed from the legislation. Creating this requirement will not meaningfully advance the objectives of the legislation and will create a precedent that could lead to numerous requests for information on various issues to be included in a license renewal application.

MedChi and MDAAP recognize the ongoing challenges in addressing health outcomes among people with the sickle cell trait and sickle cell disease. Passage of House Bill 1188 will help individuals make informed health decisions when they are aware of their sickle cell trait status and similarly will provide health care practitioners access to resources that can help inform their provision of services to patients with sickle cell or sickle cell trait. With its amendment noted, a favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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