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TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 188 – *Public Health – Rare Disease Advisory Council*

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 Senate Bill 188.

Senate Bill 188 establishes a Rare Disease Advisory Council to study and make recommendations on matters relating to individuals with rare diseases in the State. The Council is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders who, working collaboratively, can enhance the State's capability to better understand the impact of rare diseases on Maryland residents, the needs presented to caregivers and health care providers, and the role that technology can play in addressing those challenges. Utilizing this approach, we can ensure that the challenges faced by patients impacted by rare diseases are addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. As a result of these efforts, Maryland can position itself as a leader in developing solutions to the problems faced by those affected by rare diseases. A favorable report is requested.