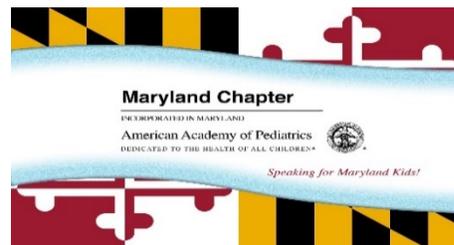




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TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Department of Transportation

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

DATE: January 13, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 176 – *Vehicle Laws – Rear-Facing Child Safety Seats – Requirement*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support** Senate Bill 176.

Senate Bill 176 provides an important enhancement to Maryland’s existing safety seat law. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the federal agency that addresses transportation safety issues for motor vehicles. They have responsibility for developing the recommendations and resulting regulations regarding the use of child safety seats and child positioning recommendations. NHTSA’s recommendations have been updated since Maryland last visited its child safety seat and positioning laws in 2012 and Senate Bill 176 proposes to enhance Maryland’s current requirements to meet federal recommendations.

Traffic accidents remain the leading cause of death for children. It has been conclusively demonstrated that properly securing a child in a child safety seat in accordance with the child safety seat and vehicle manufacturers’ instructions substantially contributes to the safety of children, should a motor vehicle accident occur. Senate Bill 176 enhances Maryland’s requirements and places them in line with federal recommendations. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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