

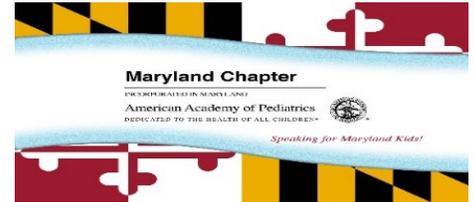


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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.

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

DATE: February 3, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 242 – *Maryland Department of Health – System for Newborn Screening – Requirements*

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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 Senate Bill 242.

Senate Bill 242 proposes to strengthen the effectiveness of the State’s system for newborn screening by requiring that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) include in the system screening for each condition listed in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (DHHS) Recommended Uniform Screening Panel. In addition, beginning on January 1, 2023, MDH will be required to include in the system any core or secondary condition added to the recommended uniform screening panel within 2 years after the addition of the condition to the panel.

MDH administers the system for newborn screening in consultation with the State Advisory Council on Hereditary and Congenital Disorders. One of the charges of administering the system is to determine the screening tests that the Department’s public health laboratory is required to perform. Requiring the inclusion of all conditions listed in the recommended uniform screening panel issued by DHHS will ensure that Maryland’s system for newborn screening is comprehensive and reflects all recommended conditions. It will also allow the State Advisory Council to focus its efforts on enhancing the effectiveness of the program’s objectives – which are to facilitate the rapid identification and treatment of affected children – as opposed to spending unnecessary time reviewing and evaluating conditions for inclusion in the system. We strongly urge a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

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