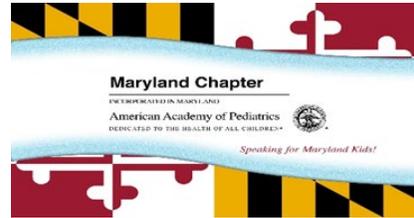




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House Health Committee
February 4, 2026
House Bill 196 – *Public Health – Baby Food Testing – Definition of Baby Food*
POSITION: SUPPORT

On behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 196. MedChi and MDAAP strongly support the bill’s goal of expanding coverage under the prior heavy metals in baby foods law. It is entirely appropriate and necessary to include infant formula and infant cereals within the scope of required testing. Infants are uniquely vulnerable to toxic exposures during critical stages of development, and products intended to be a primary or sole source of nutrition must meet the highest safety standards.

In particular, the inclusion of infant cereals is a positive and well-justified step. Infant rice cereal has been repeatedly identified in past testing as a potential source of arsenic exposure, and expanding testing requirements will help reduce preventable risks to infants and young children.

Similarly, recent formula recalls have highlighted the importance of proactive safety measures in the infant formula supply. Ensuring that infant formulas are routinely tested for heavy metals is a reasonable and responsible safeguard that promotes child health and consumer confidence.

House Bill 196 represents a thoughtful expansion of existing protections and reflects a commitment to evidence-based public health policy. By strengthening oversight of products specifically designed for infants, the bill helps protect Maryland’s youngest residents during a critical period of growth and development.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 196.

For more information call:

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