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House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Economic Matters
February 11, 2026

House Bill 331 – *Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program*
POSITION: SUPPORT

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society (“MedChi”), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** *House Bill 331: Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program*. House Bill 331 establishes the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program, which aims to increase beverage container reuse, recycling, and access to water alternatives.

MedChi is particularly supportive of the grant provisions in House Bill 331, including grants to expand refillable water stations. This initiative aligns with MedChi’s long-standing partnership with Sugar Free Kids Maryland, and our shared goal of reducing excessive sugar consumption. More refillable water stations mean more Marylanders can choose clean and convenient water instead of sugary bottled beverages, which has the potential to improve the health of all Marylanders. It is MedChi’s view that this increased access to water has the potential to improve public health in Maryland.

MedChi, therefore, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 331.

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