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Senate Finance Committee
February 25, 2026
Senate Bill 570 – *Public Health – Baby Food Testing – Definition of Baby Food*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 570. Senate Bill 570 expands the definition of “baby food” to explicitly include infant formula and infant cereal.

Protecting the health and development of Maryland’s infants and young children is of paramount importance to our physician members. Exposure to toxic heavy metals, such as arsenic, lead, cadmium, and mercury during early childhood has been associated with adverse neurodevelopmental, cognitive, and long-term health outcomes. Senate Bill 570 represents a meaningful step toward reducing preventable exposure risks and improving transparency for families.

By expanding the definition of baby food to include infant formula and infant cereals, requiring regular testing for toxic elements, and mandating public disclosure of testing results, this legislation promotes accountability and informed decision-making. Parents and caregivers deserve clear, accessible information about the products they rely on to nourish their children. The bill’s labeling and QR code provisions further enhance consumer access to safety information in a practical and modern way.

Importantly, Senate Bill 570 aligns with ongoing efforts by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other public health authorities to address heavy metal exposure in foods intended for infants and young children. Providing Maryland families with greater transparency will help build trust and encourage industry adherence to the highest safety standards.

MedChi urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 570.

For more information call:

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