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American Academy of Pediatrics
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Maryland Chapter



TO: The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair
Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
The Honorable Joan Carter Conway

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: February 27, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 545 – *Public Safety – Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund – Establishment*

Senate Bill 545 establishes the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund and the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Advisory Council within the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). The Fund would be a dedicated funding source for GOCCP, who in consultation with the Council created under the bill, would provide local governments with funds to award grants to local government agencies and/or community-based programs who wish to implement evidence-based health programs or evidence-informed health programs related to violence intervention or prevention. The legislation also provides that a percentage of the funding be used to evaluate the efficacy of the programs funded through the Program. Beginning in FY 2020, the Governor would be required to appropriate at least \$5 million to the Fund.

Given the escalation of violence in many communities across the State, the above-named organizations support the creation of a dedicated funding source for the implementation of evidenced based programs designed to address that violence. Requiring that the Fund be used only for evidenced-based and or evidence-informed health programs and that evaluation of the efficacy of the programs will be an integral part of the Program provides assurance that the Funds will be wisely expended. Further, the funding of programs at the local level will enable the development of programs that take into consideration the unique challenges of a local community. Senate Bill 545 provides an accountable and well-defined approach to funding creative approaches to violence intervention and prevention. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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