

American Academy of Pediatrics

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Maryland Chapter



MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org



TO: The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Dan K. Morhaim

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

DATE: March 22, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT ONLY AS AMENDED** – House Bill 518 – *Public Health – Prenatal HIV Testing*

The Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 518, **as amended**.

As originally introduced, House Bill 518 would have established a Prenatal Infectious Disease Advisory Committee within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and required the committee to make recommendations on prenatal infectious disease testing with DHMH promulgating regulations based on the Committee's recommendations. The bill also deleted the current statutory provisions related to HIV testing. The bill's original form reflected the sponsors disagreement with the enactment of legislation last year that mandated 3rd trimester prenatal HIV testing for all pregnant woman. In large part this objection was based as much or more on the legislation of clinical practice, an objection we share separate and apart from whether there should be universal HIV testing in the 3rd trimester of all pregnant women.

The bill as amended removes all the objectionable provisions and requires DHMH to move current statutory requirements to regulation. When those regulations have been enacted, the current statutory language will be deleted. The legislation makes no changes to HIV testing requirements. It simply removes clinical practice language from the statute and places it in regulation. We urge a favorable report if passed as amended, by the House.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000

