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American Academy of Pediatrics

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Maryland Chapter



TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable David Fraser-Hidalgo

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

DATE: February 22, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1325 – *Oil and Natural Gas – Hydraulic Fracturing – Prohibition*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1325.

House Bill 1325 would prohibit hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in the State. Unconventional gas development and production has increased dramatically in neighboring states due to changes in technology that have allowed recovery of previously inaccessible reserves. Fracking is a well stimulation technique in which large volumes of water, sand and chemicals are injected deep underground to force open rock fissures to allow the release and recovery of the gas. Within the last few years, it has become increasingly apparent that there are serious health and environmental impacts from this technology.

Despite the State's efforts to create a stringent and accountable regulatory structure for fracking, MedChi and MDAAP remain concerned that this practice will present serious health risks to Maryland's residents as a result of exposure to the dangerous chemicals released into the environment caused by the fracking process. This concern is based upon evidence from fracking operations in other states; well recognized evidence-based studies of adverse health effects; and the inadequate environmental and health regulations of fracking at the Federal level.

MedChi and MDAAP believe that there is no regulatory framework sufficiently restrictive to protect the health and safety of Maryland residents from the negative impacts, both health and environmental, associated with fracking. Therefore, for the reasons stated above, MedChi and MDAAP support the passage of House Bill 1325.

For more information call:

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