

# SCHWARTZ, METZ & WISE, P.A.

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TO: The Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Chairman  
Members, House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Susan McComas

FROM: Joseph A. Schwartz, III  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise

DATE: February 21, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1186 – *Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect*

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On behalf of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we support House Bill 1186 with amendment.

House Bill 1186 proposes to create the broad based Task Force which the physician community has requested throughout the consideration of the myriad of bills on child abuse reporting, prevention, and other related matters over the last several years. In order for the state to meaningfully reform and enhance its programs to protect our children from child abuse and neglect there must be a broad based consideration of a number of factors that contribute effective identification, reporting, prevention and intervention.

Addressing concerns about failure to report in isolation will not resolve the problems we face in comprehensively addressing the incidence and consequences of child abuse and neglect. We applaud the sponsor for the approach laid out in the legislation. Amendments will be offered to the membership and charge of the Task Force by the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children. We support those amendments and believe they will strengthen the notable provisions already reflected in House Bill 1186. With the amendments noted, MedChi and MDAAP urge a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

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