

SCHWARTZ, METZ & WISE, P.A.

ATTORNEYS

20 WEST STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TEL: 410-244-7000

FAX: 410-269-5443

TO: The Honorable Thomas Mac Middleton, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Anthony O'Donnell

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

DATE: April 2, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1542 – *Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
– Newborn Screening Program Fund – Establishment*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we support House Bill 1542.

House Bill 1542 seeks to establish a funding mechanism for the newborn screening program. As this Committee has frequently heard, with respect to various efforts over the years to add new disorders to the newborn screening program, funding for expansion of the program is often a barrier. We are hopeful that if there is a designated fund to provide the necessary resources, it will facilitate the addition of new disorders to the screening panel when recommended by the State Advisory Council on Heredity and Congenital Disorders. The proposed fund captures those fees currently generated by the program and will allow the program to utilize any unexpended revenues for program expansion. Consequently, there is no net fiscal impact. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

Joseph A. Schwartz, III
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
(410) 244-7000