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American Academy of Pediatrics

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Maryland Chapter

ACOG
THE AMERICAN CONGRESS OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
            Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
            The Honorable Samuel I. Rosenberg

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

DATE: March 9, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1650 – *Maryland Department of Health – Maryland Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Grant Program*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), and the Maryland Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (MDACOG) submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1650.

House Bill 1650 establishes the Maryland Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Grant Program to provide grants and contracts on a competitive basis to fund specified teenage pregnancy prevention programs and teenage pregnancy prevention research and demonstration programs. If a teenage pregnancy prevention program receives funding under the grant program and is discontinued as a recipient of federal funding, the grant program must provide funding sufficient to maintain previous federal funding levels.

On March 8, 2018, it was reported that Baltimore City is joining a lawsuit against the Trump Administration to save federal funding for a teen-pregnancy prevention program due to an unexplained cut in funding two years early by the U.S. Health and Human Services Agency. This program reaches 20,000 students in the Baltimore City schools and many more throughout the State. As such, House Bill 1650 is extremely timely, as it will help supplant the funding that has now been withdrawn by the Trump Administration. MedChi, MDAAP, and MDACOG strongly urge a favorable report for House Bill 1650.

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