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American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™
Maryland Chapter



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Members, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Geraldine Valentino-Smith

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

DATE: February 19, 2019

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 506 – *Maryland Department of Health – Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children – Reports*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 506.

House Bill 506 requires the Maryland Department of Health, after consultation with affected and interested stakeholders, to provide an annual report to the House Appropriations and Health and Government Operations Committees and the Senate Budget and Taxation and Finance Committees on data related to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, including barriers to increasing program enrollment and recommendations for changes to program policies and procedures to increase participation rates. WIC is a critically important program for low income woman and children. It provides a source of nutritious foods to individuals and families, which is essential to enhancing their health status and long-term health outcomes.

The above-named organizations applaud the sponsor for her commitment to ensuring that Maryland addresses any and all barriers that inhibit maximizing program enrollment. Failure to identify and address enrollment barriers will result in less than optimal programmatic outcomes and unnecessarily hinder the health and well-being of those eligible for enrollment who are not taking advantage of the program. To enhance the quality of stakeholder input, amendments are requested to the list of stakeholders to be consulted. Given the population served by WIC, the addition of both the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers will enhance the quality of the evaluation and identification of recommendations. Further, the above-named organizations would encourage the program evaluation to include an assessment of the State's contracting and payment policies for local health departments and private provider program management contracts to ensure they adequately support the resource needs of those administering the program at the local level. With the noted amendments, a favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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