



TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
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DATE: March 3, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 791 – *County Boards of Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policies and Reports*

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The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 791.

Senate Bill 791 requires local school systems to designate a coordinator for education of pregnant and parenting students to assist pregnant and parenting students in accessing lactation accommodations, child care services, and other support services. The bill also expands the types of absences that must be excused for pregnant and parenting students to include child care emergencies and lactation time. To assess the impact of these initiatives, the local school boards are required to collect specified data that relates to educational outcomes for pregnant and parenting students and submit that data to the University of Maryland Institute for Innovation and Implementation (UMIII). UMIII will analyze the data and submit an interim report with findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by June 30, 2022 with a final report due June 30, 2024.

It is an unfortunate fact that there are a significant number of pregnant and parenting students enrolled in our public education system. These students face significant hurdles in reaching academic success given the demands that accompany pregnancy and parenthood. Providing a framework to assist these students in achieving successful outcomes will benefit not only the students but their families as well. Enhancing their support within the school system and making necessary accommodations that acknowledge their additional responsibilities will enhance the likelihood that they will become self-supporting, productive members of their communities.

MDAAP recognizes that some of the provisions in the bill, as drafted, may need to be modified to address fiscal concerns, such as lactation facilities in elementary and middle schools but MDAAP believes the objectives of the bill must be addressed and that a reasonable framework can be created with the collaborative involvement of all stakeholders. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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