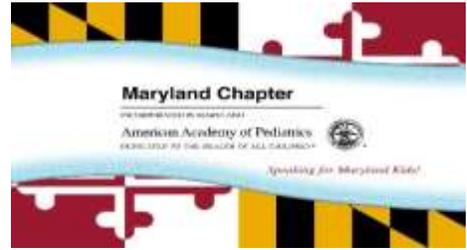




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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
 Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
 The Honorable Pam Queen

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

DATE: February 26, 2020

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 628 – *Health Occupations – Primary Care Providers – Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we submit this letter of **opposition** for House Bill 628.

House Bill 628 establishes the Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening Grant Program for the notable objective of enhancing the ability of primary care providers to identify adverse childhood experiences and to integrate mental health services into the primary care setting to address those adverse experiences. MedChi and MDAAP are strong supporters of recognizing the impact of adverse childhood experiences on the health and well-being of children, not only through childhood but throughout their entire lives. However, while the above-named organizations applaud the sponsor for her interest in this area, the framework proposed creates a program that in some respects duplicates current programs in this area, requires the creation of courses and the use of screening tools but does not recognize the current existence of recognized screening tools; does not appropriately define a primary care provider or reflect reasonable objectives related to their responsibilities. In addition, the legislation does not include social determinants of health in the factors to be screened for and addressed, which is now recognized as a critical component of effective screening.

The sponsor of this legislation has also introduced House Bill 666 which establishes a Workgroup on Screening Related to Adverse Childhood Experiences. MedChi and MDAAP believe that a Workgroup is a much more productive approach to identifying effective strategies to achieve the well-intended objectives of this legislation. It is for this reason that we urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 628.

For more information call:

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