



TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Julie Palakovich Carr

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 23, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 919 – *Income Tax – Child Tax Credit – Alterations and Sunset Extension*

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 House Bill 919.

House Bill 919 expands and enhances Maryland's Child Tax Credit. The refundable tax credit of \$500 per child is expanded to include any child under the age of 6 in addition to the current law which includes children with disabilities under the age of 17. Further, the bill increases to \$15,000 or less annually, the federal adjusted gross income required to qualify for the credit from the current requirement of \$6,000 or less annually.

Child tax credits are a proven approach to reducing child poverty and the need for families to make the impossible and unnecessary choice between financial stability and family stability. The ongoing pandemic continues to increase the number of children and families who are living in poverty, experiencing food insecurity, and are at risk for housing instability. Increasing the \$6,000 income cap to \$15,000 and including children under 6 years of age will increase the number of low-income Maryland families that will benefit from the tax credit and expand the positive impact the credit provides in stabilizing their financial challenges. Enactment of House Bill 919 will reduce the incidences of childhood poverty and all its related negative impacts on child growth and development. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000