



March 9, 2010

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chairwoman
Delegate James Malone, Jr., Vice Chairman
House Environmental Matters Committee
251 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: House Bill (HB) 1030—Support

Dear Chairwoman McIntosh and Vice Chairman Malone:

On behalf of Children's National Medical Center (Children's National), I am pleased to support House Bill (HB) 1030. Children's National applauds Delegate Bill Bronrott for his leadership in introducing this bill, which would require protective headgear for all individuals operating or riding on motor scooters.

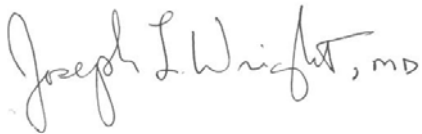
Children's National Medical Center, a 283 bed not-for-profit academic medical center, is located in Washington, DC, but serves the pediatric health care needs of the broader Washington metropolitan region. Located just three miles from the Maryland border, Children's National annually devotes nearly 60% of its inpatient care to children from Maryland. With five outpatient centers in Maryland and specialty care services provided in eight Maryland locations, Children's National is proud to be one of the largest providers of high quality pediatric primary, specialty and emergency care to Maryland's children and families. Additionally, Safe Kids Worldwide, the first national advocacy organization solely dedicated to pediatric injury prevention, was founded by Children's National in 1987.

A study conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) found that there were approximately 10,000 emergency room visits involving powered scooters from July 2003 through June 2004. Fewer than half of the victims were wearing helmets at the time of the incident and two-thirds of those injured were children under 15 years old. According to Safe Kids Worldwide, wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent.

Children's National Medical Center is committed to policies that improve the health and well-being of the children we serve. In fact, it is part of Children's National's mission to improve health outcomes for children regionally, nationally and internationally. As such, Children's National Medical Center respectfully urges the Committee to give a favorable report to HB 1030. It is a proactive step that will reduce the incidence of head and facial injuries to children who ride motor scooters.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph L. Wright, MD". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH
Senior Vice President, Child Health Advocacy Institute
Children's National Medical Center

State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS)

CC: Members of the House Environmental Matters Committee