

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes

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

DATE: February 27, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1652 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Telemedicine – Assertive Community Treatment and Mobile Treatment Services*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, **supports with amendment** House Bill 1652.

House Bill 1652 expands the provisions of Medicaid's telemedicine program to include psychiatrists who are providing assertive community treatment or mobile treatment services to Medicaid recipients located in a home or community-based setting and the services provided through telemedicine for these services are equivalent for purposes of reimbursement and fidelity standards to the same care provided through an in-person consultation.

House Bill 1652 has great potential to improve access to psychiatric treatment to Maryland Medical Assistance Program recipients. Passage of this important legislation, however, should be amended to apply to all psychiatrists in the same manner the bill applies to all primary care providers and to provide primary care providers the same reimbursement and fidelity standards as the bill provides for psychiatrists. With these proposed amendments, MedChi would urge a favorable report.

For more information call:

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