



The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Nicholas R. Kipke

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

DATE: March 14, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1009 – *Health – Standards for Involuntary Admissions and Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Modification*

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The Maryland State Medical Society, which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, **supports** House Bill 1009.

House Bill 1009, if enacted, will provide an important tool for parents who are struggling to help their grown children deal with substance abuse behavior that has resulted in an overdose. The legislation expands the provisions of law that provide for involuntary admission to a health care facility to include an individual who is not a minor, has experienced an overdose, and has health insurance coverage under their parent’s insurance policy. Under the Affordable Care Act, individuals may continue to be covered under a parent’s health insurance coverage until age 26.

Young adults under the age of 26 reflect a significant component of the demographics of the individuals who have suffered an overdose. However, these same individuals are often those unwilling to acknowledge that their behavior places themselves and others at risk. Authorizing a parent, physician, or other authorized individual to execute or seek an emergency petition for involuntary admission for these young adults will enable timely intervention and care at a time when their behavior is likely to result in subsequent overdose or death.

Currently an emergency petition for involuntary admission is limited to individuals who have a mental disorder. The expansion of these provisions to include young adults covered under their parent’s health care coverage, will provide their parents an important additional means to aid in the treatment and intervention of a child who fails to accept medically necessary care or to recognize the risk their behavior provides to themselves and others.

There are sufficient legal limitations on the emergency petition and involuntary admission processes have to ensure that parents cannot use this avenue of intervention without cause. Passage of House Bill 1009 can help the lives and well-being of many young Marylanders. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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