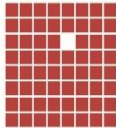




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Maryland Chapter
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
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Maryland Chapter

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Eric M. Bromwell

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

DATE: March 7, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1082 – *Heroin and Opioid Education and Community Action Act of 2017*
(*Start Talking Maryland Act*)

The Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1082.

House Bill 1082 recognizes the critical importance of expanding public outreach, education, and intervention as a component of the State's response to the increasing incidences of substance misuse, addiction, and overdose. The legislation appropriately identifies drug courts, public schools, and institutions of higher education as essential components of a comprehensive strategy to increase public awareness of the growing epidemic. House Bill 1082 also seeks to ensure those institutions have access to adequate resources to develop appropriate education and outreach programs to achieve the objectives of the legislation.

In addition to the expansion of programs to enhance public awareness and the education of our children on drug addiction and prevention, House Bill 1082 also recognizes the importance of ensuring that schools and institutions of higher education are equipped and authorized to respond to overdose incidences by training and authorizing school nurses and campus police to administer naloxone or other overdose reversing medication and for schools and institutions of higher education to stock those medications so that they will be equipped to respond to an overdose.

While the named organizations cannot speak to the level of funding required to achieve the objectives of House Bill 1082, the framework for enhanced public outreach and education reflected in the legislation reflects critical components of a comprehensive effort to enhance public awareness and prevention. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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