

# SCHWARTZ, METZ & WISE, P.A.

ATTORNEYS

20 WEST STREET  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TEL: 410-244-7000

FAX: 410-269-5443

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly

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

DATE: March 13, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1127 – *Health Insurance – Coverage Requirements for Behavioral Health Disorders – Modifications*

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The Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1127.

In addition to updating terminology – replacing the terms alcohol abuse and drug abuse with alcohol misuse and drug misuse – House Bill 1127 alters the services that an insurer must provide for the diagnosis and treatment of a mental illness, emotional disorder, drug use disorder, or alcohol use disorder. Additional services that must be covered include residential treatment center benefits and intensive outpatient benefits, including diagnostic evaluation, opioid treatment services, and medication evaluation and management for both outpatient and intensive outpatient benefits. Maryland must ensure that individuals have access to appropriate treatment services. House Bill 1127 updates Maryland's current law to recognize all appropriate treatment options.

For the above reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 1127.

**For more information call:**

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