

# SCHWARTZ, METZ & WISE, P.A.

ATTORNEYS

20 WEST STREET  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TEL: 410-244-7000

FAX: 410-269-5443

TO: The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier

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

DATE: March 8, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 968 – *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 Senate Bill 968.

In addition to updating terminology – replacing the terms alcohol abuse and drug abuse with alcohol misuse and drug misuse – Senate Bill 968 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. Senate Bill 968 updates Maryland's current law to recognize all appropriate treatment options.

For the above reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 968.

**For more information call:**

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