

SCHWARTZ, METZ & WISE, P.A.

ATTORNEYS

20 WEST STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TEL: 410-244-7000

FAX: 410-269-5443

TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chair
Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Curtis S. Anderson

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Joseph A. Schwartz, III
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 20, 2015

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 228 - *Public Health – Expedited Partner Therapy Program – Repeal of Termination Date*

On behalf of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MDACOG), the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC), we support House Bill 228.

This legislation removes the sunset on Baltimore City's successful expedited partner therapy pilot program. The program has proven to be an effective tool in the effort to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, specifically gonorrhea and chlamydia by providing antibiotics to the sexual partners of those who have sought treatment and been diagnosed with these diseases. Treating their sexual partners will help prevent re-infection as well as treat the disease that is undoubtedly present in their partners. The above named organizations urge a favorable report and encourage the General Assembly to consider expansion of this program statewide.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Joseph A. Schwartz, III
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
(410) 244-7000