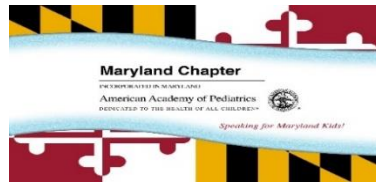




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MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
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TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Malcolm Augustine

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

DATE: February 11, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 305 – *Public Safety – Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC), we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 305.

Senate Bill 305 establishes a Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence in the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to provide technical support to local governments, law enforcement, public safety agencies, behavioral health agencies, and crisis service providers and to develop and implement a "crisis intervention model program." The bill also establishes a Collaborative Planning and Implementation Committee to guide the work of the Center of Excellence.

Given the current escalating incidences of mental health and substance abuse disorders and the corresponding need for crisis response services statewide, Senate Bill 305 provides a framework for creating a focused and organized approach to ensuring that local law enforcement, behavioral health agencies, and community-based support organizations and others invested in addressing this crisis have access to the best information and resource coordination available and that those resources are available statewide. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:
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