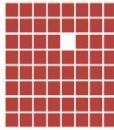




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Maryland Chapter  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
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Maryland Chapter

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Erik L. Barron

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

DATE: February 21, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 791 – *Overdose Response Program – Prescribing and Dispensing of Naloxone – Noncertificate Holders*

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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 791.

The current program permits physicians and other licensed health care providers with prescriptive authority; House Bill 791 expands their authority to writing standing orders for naloxone to individuals who have completed the requisite training and hold a certificate and provides immunity to those providers for issuing a standing order. The current program was created to expand access to naloxone to address the growing incidences of overdose deaths in the State. While the current program has been successful in achieving that objective, the training and certification requirement has prevented many individuals most in need of having access to naloxone from obtaining it when needed, due to the impediments posed by the training program.

The administration of naloxone is very straightforward and the risk associated with administration without training is significantly less than the risk associated with failure to administer in the event of a suspected overdose. Therefore, House Bill 791 proposes to expand the authorization to issue a standing order to all individuals, not just those that hold a certificate. The expansion of access to naloxone that will result from removing the training and certification requirement will dramatically increase the effectiveness of the program and, therefore, should result in a meaningful decrease in overdose deaths. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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