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

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:
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