

SCHWARTZ, METZ & WISE, P.A.

ATTORNEYS

20 WEST STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TEL: 410-244-7000

FAX: 410-269-5443

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joan Carter Conway

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

DATE: March 21, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 110 – *Public Health – Expedited Partner Therapy – Pharmacist Dispensing*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 110.

Senate Bill 110 provides clarifying authorization for a pharmacist to dispense antibiotic therapy prescribed to sexual partners of patients diagnosed with specified sexually transmitted infections who have not had a personal physical assessment. In 2015, this General Assembly passed legislation that authorized health care providers with prescriptive authority to prescribe antibiotic therapy to the sexual partner of a patient diagnosed with gonorrhea and/or syphilis without a physical assessment of the sexual partner. “Expedited Partner Therapy” or “EPT”, had previously been authorized through pilot programs in Prince George’s County and Baltimore City and had proven to be an effective tool in addressing the spread of sexually transmitted disease.

The 2015 legislation expanded the authority to use “EPT” statewide. However, during the development of regulations to implement “EPT” statewide, a concern was raised as to whether a pharmacist had the authority to dispense a prescription of a person who had been prescribed the antibiotic therapy without a physical assessment. Senate Bill 110 provides the necessary explicit authorization intended in the original legislation. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
(410) 244-7000