

# SCHWARTZ, METZ & WISE, P.A.

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TO: The Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Chair  
Members, House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Eric M. Bromwell

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

DATE: March 11, 2015

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 898 - *Civil Actions – Immunity From Liability – Emergency Medical Care for Drug Overdose*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), we support House Bill 898.

House Bill 898 provides immunity to law enforcement and first responders for the provision of emergency medical care pursuant to a suspected drug overdose, including the administration of medications intended to prevent death. Immunity is only provided to those individuals who have been trained in the administration of these medications, in accordance with the requirements of the program established by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The individuals provided immunity under this legislation play a critical role in the State's efforts to effectively reduce overdose deaths – a growing public health concern. Their job responsibilities often place them in the front line of response when persons are suspected to be experiencing an overdose. They should not have to be concerned that they will be liable for providing life-saving treatment if they have been appropriately trained to intervene in such circumstances. Passage of this legislation will not only result in saved lives but also provide reasonable immunity protection to those who assist. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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