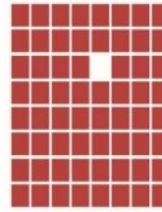




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**Maryland Chapter  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**

**TO:** The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier

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

**DATE:** February 15, 2018

**RE:** **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 574 – *Public Health – Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 574.

Senate Bill 574 establishes a Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup to develop a public awareness campaign on sepsis awareness and prevention. The workgroup will educate the public on the risks associated with sepsis, how sepsis may occur, the signs and symptoms, what to do if symptoms are present, and methods for prevention. An emergency medicine physician and a pediatrician will be members of the workgroup, among others.

Sepsis is life-threatening, and without timely treatment, it can rapidly lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death. Sepsis is the body's extreme response to an infection which can result in severe sepsis and septic shock. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1.5 million people in the United States develop sepsis, and at least 250,000 die as a result. Adults 65 or older, people with chronic conditions or weakened immune systems, and children younger than one are at a higher risk of infection and sepsis. In addition, persons with lung, kidney, urinary tract, stomach, intestine, or skin infections are also at risk.

Senate Bill 574 is a recognition of the vital importance of educating the public on sepsis. A person is more likely to survive through prevention, early detection, and immediate treatment. MedChi and MDACEP urge a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

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