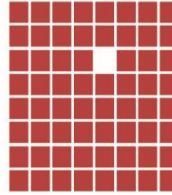




The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5585
410-727-2237
e-mail: mdacep@aol.com
www.mdacep.org



Maryland Chapter
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Barrie S. Ciliberti

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

DATE: March 13, 2019

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 894 – *Criminal Law – Felony Second Degree Assault – Emergency Medical Care Workers*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), we submit this letter in **support** of House Bill 894.

House Bill 894 would add a person providing emergency and related services in an emergency department of a hospital to the class of persons protected by an enhanced penalty if they are assaulted. Currently, if a law enforcement officer, parole agent, or first responder is assaulted in the performance of their duties, the defendant can be found guilty of felony assault, a more severe penalty than the usual misdemeanor assault. House Bill 894 adds those working in a hospital emergency room to the list of those persons that trigger the felony charge for the defendant.

The State has an established policy of enhanced penalties for those who would assault a person working in public safety and providing emergency services. Most recently, in 2015, first responders were added to the statute. But the threat from individuals who would assault a person providing emergency services does not stop at the hospital door. In fact, for hospital workers in the emergency room, it only begins at that point. It does not make sense to provide enhanced penalties for an assault upon an EMS worker attempting to help a patient from the incident scene and to the hospital, but not the hospital employee who is helping the same patient alongside the EMS worker at the hospital.

The higher penalty is especially justified given the fact that an assault on anyone providing emergency services not only leads to their injury but may also prevent them from assisting others in need.

For these reasons, MedChi and MDACEP urge a favorable report on House Bill 894.

For more information call:

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

(410) 244-7000