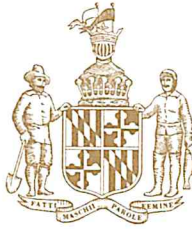


**ADDIE C. ECKARDT**  
*Legislative District 37*  
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,  
and Wicomico Counties



*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 322  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3590 · 301-858-3590  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3590  
Fax 410-841-3087 · 301-858-3087  
Adelaide.Eckardt@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services  
Subcommittee

*Joint Committees*

Administrative, Executive,  
and Legislative Review

Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and  
State Personnel Oversight

Pensions

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*District Office*  
601 Locust Street, Suite 202  
Cambridge, MD 21613  
410-221-6561

Testimony for Senate Bill 103

Health Occupations - Diagnostic Evaluation and Treatment of Patients - Disciplinary Actions (The Patient's  
Access to Integrative Healthcare Act of 2020)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

January 21, 2020

Chairman  Members of the Committee:

I am here to present Senate Bill 103 – Health Occupations - Diagnostic Evaluation and Treatment of Patients - Disciplinary Actions. SB 103 prohibits health occupations boards from disciplining healthcare practitioners for using integrative diagnostic and treatment procedures. This bill will provide practitioners with more tools in diagnosing and treating tick-borne illnesses, including Lyme Disease.

Currently, healthcare providers may be disciplined, by their respective boards, for utilizing nonconventional methods of diagnosing and treating patients. This leaves patients suffering from tick-borne illnesses at a disadvantage, as providers are unwilling to try integrative methods, out of fear of punishment. Integrative methods of diagnosis and treatment have shown great promise in alleviating the pain and symptoms caused by tick-borne illnesses, yet in Maryland practitioners may be disciplined for choosing to utilize these effective methods with their patients. This leaves Marylanders at a healthcare disadvantage and gives healthcare practitioners reasons to leave the State.

As medicine advances, Marylanders suffering from tick-borne illnesses should receive the highest quality care we can provide. SB 103 gives doctors another tool to treat patients and increase the quality of care throughout the State.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 103. Thank you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Addie Eckardt'.

Senator Addie Eckardt