

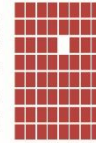
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Maryland Chapter
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

TO: The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Heather Bagnall

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

DATE: February 12, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** (Written Only) – House Bill 332 – *Mental Health – Emergency Facilities List – Comprehensive Crisis Response Centers, Crisis Stabilization Centers, and Crisis Treatment Centers*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 332. House Bill 332 expands on the current list of locations designated by the Secretary of Health as an “emergency facility” to include comprehensive crisis response centers, crisis stabilization centers, and crisis treatment centers.

Currently, peace officers can only bring an individual to an emergency department under the emergency evaluation petition process. Emergency departments are currently experiencing high volumes of behavioral health patients seeking care, too often spending days waiting for inpatient or residential placement. House Bill 332 provides a tool for addressing emergency department overcrowding by providing peace officers with additional location options for where an emergency evaluation can be conducted. The above organizations support both House Bill 332 and the amendment offered by the sponsor to add “local behavioral health authority” to the list of organizations receiving the designated list of locations. We ask for a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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