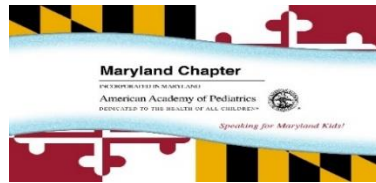


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MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes

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

DATE: February 20, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1165 – *Health Insurance – Provider Panels – Coverage for Nonparticipating Providers*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1165. House Bill 1165, among other provisions, allows an insured to go out of network if the carrier's provider panel has an insufficient number or type of participating specialists or nonphysician specialists with the expertise to provide the covered mental health or substance use disorder services at no greater cost to the member than if the services were provided in-network.

Ensuring that individuals have access to critical mental health and substance use disorder treatment services continues to be an area of concern. Recent reports from the Maryland Insurance Administration have confirmed the inadequacy of some carrier's networks. House Bill 1165 addresses this issue and will assist in fostering adequate networks and/or adequate payment to these specialists. As such, the above-reference organizations support House Bill 1165 and urge a favorable report.

For more information call:

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