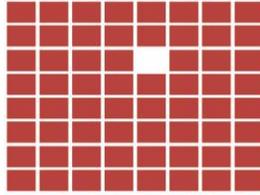


1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5585  
410-727-2237  
e-mail: mdacep@aol.com  
www.mdacep.org



## Maryland Chapter AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
The Honorable Susan C. Lee

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

DATE: January 29, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 212 – *Criminal Law – Assault in the First Degree – Suffocation or Strangulation*

---

The Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP) which represents the interests of emergency physicians and their patients throughout the State of Maryland **supports** Senate Bill 212. Senate Bill 212 expands the crime of felony first-degree assault to include the commission of an assault through the intentional suffocation or strangulation of another.

While Senate Bill 212 has widespread implications, MDACEP supports this bill due to increasing violent acts occurring in emergency departments against emergency personnel. According to surveys by the national American College of Emergency Physicians and the Emergency Nurses Association, a staggering number of emergency physicians and nurses report being victims of violence, which, at times, includes personnel being strangled while on the job. This is unacceptable and should no longer be considered as part of the job.

In a growing effort to stem violence against emergency personnel, Senate Bill 212 will provide a greater enforcement tool against these unconscionable acts. MDACEP urges a favorable vote on Senate Bill 212.

**For more information call:**

Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Richard A. Tabuteau  
410-244-7000