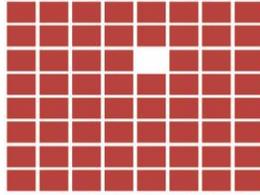


1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5585
410-727-2237
e-mail: mdacep@aol.com
www.mdacep.org



Maryland Chapter AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Jesse T. Pippy

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

DATE: January 28, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 233 – *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** House Bill 233. House Bill 233 expands the crime of felony first-degree assault to include the commission of an assault through the intentional suffocation or strangulation of another.

While House Bill 233 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, House Bill 233 will provide a greater enforcement tool against these unconscionable acts. MDACEP urges a favorable vote on House Bill 233.

For more information call:

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