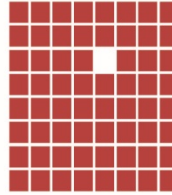




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**Maryland Chapter**  
**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF**  
**EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**

**TO:** The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair  
Members, House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Barrie S. Ciliberti

**FROM:** Danna L. Kauffman  
J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

**DATE:** March 2, 2021

**RE:** **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1110 – *Criminal Law – Felony Second Degree Assault – Emergency Medical Care Workers*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), we submit this letter in **support** of House Bill 1110. House Bill 1110 would add an individual providing emergency and related services in an emergency department of a hospital to the class of persons protected by an enhanced penalty if they are assaulted. Currently, if a law enforcement officer, parole agent, or first responder is assaulted in the performance of their duties, the defendant can be found guilty of felony assault. House Bill 1110 adds those working in a hospital emergency room to the list of those persons that trigger the felony charge for the defendant.

First responders were added to the statute in 2015. But the threat from individuals who would assault a person providing emergency services does not stop at the hospital door. In fact, for hospital workers in the emergency room, it only begins at that point. It is unclear why the State would extend this law for public safety and others providing emergency services but not the hospital employee who is helping the same patient alongside the EMS worker at the hospital. According to a 2018 survey by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA), almost half of emergency physicians report being physically assaulted at work, while about 70 percent of emergency nurses report being hit and kicked while on the job. Furthermore, the vast majority (80 percent) of emergency physicians say violence in the emergency department harms patient care. The frequency of violent attacks on nurses, physicians and patients in our nation's emergency departments is unconscionable and unacceptable. For medical professionals, being assaulted in the emergency department must no longer be tolerated as "part of the job."

For these reasons, MedChi and MDACEP urge a favorable report on House Bill 1110.

**For more information call:**

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