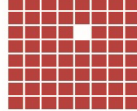
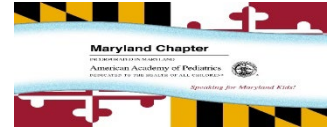




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**TO:** The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Ariana Kelly

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

**DATE:** February 17, 2022

**RE:** **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 970 – *Managed Care Organizations and Health Insurance Carriers – Prior Authorization for HIV Postexposure Prophylaxis for Victims of Sexual Offenses – Prohibition*

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The Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics **strongly support with amendment** House Bill 970. House Bill 970 prohibits both the Medicaid program and private insurance carriers to apply a prior authorization requirement for a prescription drug used as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for the prevention of HIV.

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is a HIV prevention method that involves taking antiretroviral medicines after an exposure to HIV. PEP reduces the risk of infection. According to the federal CDC, “exposure to HIV is a medical emergency, because HIV establishes infection very quickly, often within 24 to 36 hours after exposure.” Because HIV establishes infection in the body very quickly, easy and immediate access to PEP is critical.

Prior authorizations reduce the ability of PEP to work as intended. Individuals at risk of contracting HIV should have timely and affordable access to preventive medications. Prior authorization requirements are unduly burdensome for physicians and can result in delays, significantly impacting patient care, especially when access to care is critical. Physicians need to be able to prescribe these medications based on appropriate clinical knowledge, training, and experience without being subject to prior authorization. By eliminating prior authorization for PEP, it will reduce disparities and ensure the timely delivery of this important medication to reduce the risk of HIV infection.

For these reasons, we support House Bill 970 with the sponsor’s amendment to remove the reference to “victims of sexual offenses.”

**For more information call:**

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