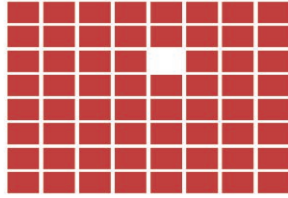


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Maryland Chapter AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Stephanie Smith

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

DATE: February 23, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1005 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Community Violence Prevention Services*

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 1005. This bill requires the Medicaid Program to provide community violence prevention services to Program recipients. Program recipients qualify if they have been exposed to community violence or have a personal history of injury sustained because of an act of community violence and have been referred by a certified or licensed health care provider or social services provider to a certified violence prevention professional to receive community violence prevention services. As drafted, House Bill 1005 outlines the process to become a certified violence prevention professional.

According to the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention, Medicaid is the largest public insurance program in the United States, making it ideal as an entry point for offering community violence prevention services. Research indicates that among victims of gunshot wounds, nearly two out of three patients are either on Medicaid or uninsured. A 2021 federal General Accounting Office report reported that initial gun injuries cost hospitals more than \$1 billion a year. When costs related to physician fees are included, the cost increases by another 20%.¹

With crime rates on the rise, especially those involving gun violence, it is imperative that the State begin to rethink how services can be delivered. Last year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that violence prevention services can be added by state Medicaid agencies through a variety of existing authorities. We strongly urge the State to take advantage of this authority. Given the fact that Medicaid will ultimately pay for the tragic consequences of violent acts, it makes strong public policy to invest dollars in prevention. For these reasons, MDACEP urges a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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¹ *Firearm Injuries. Health Care Service Needs and Tests. General Accounting Office. June 2021.*