

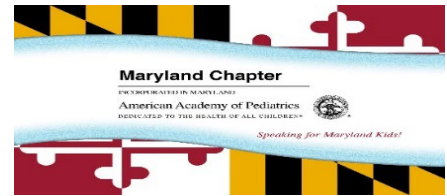


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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Nicholas R. Kipke

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

DATE: February 24, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 971 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Substance Abuse Treatment – Network Adequacy*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 971.

House Bill 971 seeks to address access to care challenges for children under the age of 18 who require health care services related to and treatment for alcohol and drug abuse. The legislation requires the Maryland Department of Health and the Behavioral Health Administration to ensure that the Medical Assistance Program has an adequate network of providers available to provide these essential services. There has been an increasing incidence of alcohol and drug abuse amongst our youth and ensuring access to high quality services that are specifically aimed at and appropriate for youth is essential to not only ensuring appropriate care and intervention in the short-term but also decreasing the potential future incidence of substance abuse disorders. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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