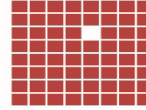




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**Maryland Chapter
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TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Ronald N. Young

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

DATE: February 8, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 298 – *Criminal Law – Threat Against Public Health Official or Hospital Staff Member*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP) **support** Senate Bill 298.

Senate Bill 298 makes threatening a public health official or hospital staff member a misdemeanor. The pandemic has caused an increase in threats of violence against health care providers and public health officials. Patients, hospital visitors, and the public upset with the enforcement of safety rules, masking policies, and limits to patient visitation are increasingly harassing and threatening public health officials and health care workers. Passage of Senate Bill 298 is an important step forward in the effort to curb threats against the very people trying to keep the public safe. MedChi and MDACEP urge a favorable report.

For more information call:

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