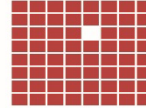




1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5585
410-727-2237
e-mail: mdacep@aol.com
www.mdacep.org



**Maryland Chapter
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Jon S. Cardin

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

DATE: February 23, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 717 – *Health Care Alternative Dispute Resolution Office – Authority of Director – Dispositive Issues of Law*

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 of **opposition** for House Bill 717.

House Bill 717 would allow the Director of the Health Care Alternative Dispute Resolution Office (HCADRO) to rule on dispositive issues of law in the event that an arbitration panel chairman has not been appointed or is not available.

MedChi and MDACEP do not believe that this expansion of the Director's role is appropriate. While we understand that current law allows the Director to rule on other matters, we do not think that the Director should be able to rule on dispositive issues. Cases are referred to arbitration panels so that an objective person can weigh the case without concern for other administrative matters, and we are concerned that the line gets blurred when the Director steps into this role.

For these reasons, MedChi and MDACEP urge an unfavorable report.

For more information call:

J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000