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House Health Committee

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House Bill 1014 – *Mental Health Law – Danger to the Life or Safety of the Individual or of Others – Definition (Right to Treatment)*

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendment** House Bill 1014.

This legislation would define the phrase “danger to the life or safety of the individual or others,” which is used in determining whether a patient should be involuntarily admitted and in emergency evaluations. The phrase has been defined through case law over the years, and this bill seeks to codify its meaning and provide more clarity to practitioners. We agree with the proposal but support some of the amendments recommended by the Maryland Psychiatric Society. These include:

1. Clarifying the time period the evaluator should consider to include the present and “the foreseeable future” to ensure that the time period is not wide open; and
2. Removing the reference to criminal justice involvement, which is also too broad.

With these amendments, MedChi respectfully requests that the Committee support House Bill 1014.

For more information call:

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