



## Maryland Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians

**Bill(s):** House Bill 450 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Health Care Reform – Safety Net Providers

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Thomas ‘Mac’ Middleton, Chair

**Position:** **Support with amendment**

**Date:** Thursday, March 24, 2011

Maryland ACEP represents the interests of emergency physicians and their patients throughout the State of Maryland. Our mission is the preservation of quality emergency care, patient advocacy, emergency medical training, and continuing education for emergency physicians, nurses, and technicians. The college promotes policy that preserves the integrity of emergency medicine.

Emergency physicians proudly serve as the safety net for our community, providing care for everyone, including the poor, uninsured, and the disenfranchised. We cannot and do not deny care to anyone; all stabilizing medical care including x-rays, lab work and consulting of specialists cannot be delayed to inquire about methods of payment or of insurance coverage.

House Bill 450 authorizes the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (MCHRC) to assist safety net providers in preparing to implement federal health care reform. MCHRC must examine specified issues and potential challenges for safety net providers and develop a business plan for the State to provide ongoing assistance to safety net providers in obtaining reimbursement from third-party payors and sustaining their service delivery. By January 1, 2012, MCHRC must make recommendations for a plan to assist safety net providers in implementing federal health care reform to the Governor and specified committees of the General Assembly.

We are requesting an amendment that would add the following issue to the items the MCHRC must examine and make recommendations on:

**Amendment #1:**

On page 4, after line 18 - INSERT “(vii) improving communication and coordination between health clinics and emergency departments when clinic subscribers receive care in emergency departments.”

With the amendment HB450 holds hope for opportunities for innovative pilot programs and new initiatives where emergency physicians can connect patients discharged from the emergency department to appropriate community resources.

We ask for a favorable report on **House Bill 450**. Thank you for your consideration.

**For more information contact Barbara Marx Brocato & Associates 410-269-1503.**