APPENDIX K

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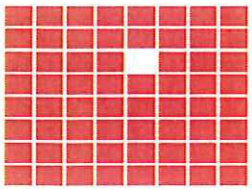

Maryland Chapter
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

August 14, 2015

Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford
Office of the Governor
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Carmela Coyle, Executive Director
Maryland Hospital Association
6820 Deerpath Road
Elkridge, MD 21075

RE: Opioid Prescribing Guidelines

Dear Lt. Governor Rutherford and Ms. Coyle:

On behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), I would like to register our endorsement of the "Opioid Prescribing Guidelines" that have been developed by the Maryland Hospital Association. As you are aware, in 2014 MDACEP developed a patient brochure entitled "Maryland Emergency Department and Acute Care Facility Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids" which was endorsed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland Poison Center, The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the Maryland State Council of the Emergency Nurses Association as well as the Maryland Hospital Association. MDACEP views this current effort as a timely enhancement of that effort given the heightened awareness of the significant challenges opioid addiction raises for Maryland citizens, communities and policy makers.

From MDACEP's perspective, it is important to note that the guidelines are voluntary and appropriately recognize that each institution, working in conjunction with its providers, will need to make its own operational decisions based on existing processes and resources as it seeks to implement the guidelines. As reflected in the MHA document, these guidelines are grounded in expert opinion and promising interventions but will need to continue to be reevaluated as voluntary implementation occurs. MDACEP looks forward to working with the Administration, MHA and other stakeholders in the coming months to discuss implementation, barriers, and the potential need for further revision.

MDACEP believes these guidelines represent one component of a multi-faceted approach that will be required to address the growing public health crisis associated with heroin and opioid addiction and overdose. We appreciate the opportunity to work in partnership with you as this initiative moves forward.

Sincerely,

William Jacquis, M.D., FACEP
President

cc: Richard A. Tabuteau, Esq., Senior Advisor, Office of Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford
Katie Wunderlich, Deputy Legislative Officer, Office of the Governor
Nicole Dempsey Stallings, Vice President
Policy & Data Analytics, Maryland Hospital Association
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer, Counsel