



House Bill 427

Education – Maryland Sudden Cardiac Awareness Act

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee

Date: March 26, 2014

From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 427 as amended. The bill would create notification and education protocols in school athletic activities and youth sports programs for the medical condition known as sudden cardiac arrest.

The provisions of HB 427 are loosely modeled after 2011 legislation (HB 858/SB 771) that created similar provisions for the handling of concussions. At the time, MACo worked with both the Senate and the House to create a concussion policy that would work for the more structured school athletic environment and the less structured volunteer youth sports programs.

Both MACo and county parks and recreation departments supported the final version of the concussion bill. As amended, MACo believes that HB 427 creates a notification and education process that will work for both school athletic programs and volunteer sports programs.

Sudden cardiac arrest is a serious but thankfully rare condition among student and youth athletes and MACo is supportive of HB 427's underlying goal to prevent future deaths in young people. With the amendments added by the House, MACo's concerns regarding volunteer youth sports programs have been addressed. Accordingly, MACo recommends the Committee give HB 427 a **FAVORABLE** report.