



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DHMH AIDS Administration Commends Maryland General Assembly for Passage of HB 1270/SB 987 *Governor O'Malley signs HIV Reporting Bill into law*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 24, 2007) -- Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law today *The Maryland HIV Reporting Act* (HB 1270/SB 987). The legislation was in response to The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006 that requires states to report HIV cases by name in order to receive federal Ryan White funding.

“The Maryland HIV Reporting Act ensures compliance with federal law and maintains Maryland’s eligibility for approximately \$65 million in federal funding for health care services for people living with HIV/AIDS,” said Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary John M. Colmers.

The *Act* makes Maryland's HIV reporting system identical to the State’s AIDS reporting system and allows both HIV and AIDS cases to be reported by healthcare providers and certain institutions to the state health department in a consistent manner that is accepted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Maryland is ranked third among U.S. states in the number of AIDS cases per 100,000 population. Currently, there are an estimated 29,800 Marylanders diagnosed and known to be living with HIV or AIDS, and an estimated 10,000 additional people living with HIV who are not aware of their status. Among groups most affected by HIV and AIDS in Maryland and nationally are African Americans.

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