

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable John A. Hurson, Chairman
Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Robert A. Costa

FROM: Joseph A. Schwartz, III
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise

DATE: February 17, 2004

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 166 – *Health Insurance – Standing Referrals to Specialists – Treatment Plans*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) which represents over 7,200 Maryland physicians and their patients supports House Bill 166.

House Bill 166 provides that a primary care physician – in developing a treatment plan for a patient with a specialist physician – may provide for the patient to obtain at least five visits to a specialist without having to return for additional referral paperwork from the primary care doctor's office.

Under existing law a primary care physician may make a "standing referral" in accordance with a "written treatment plan." Such standing referrals are for chronic and disabling conditions or diseases which are almost always cases where the patient will have to be seen by the specialist physician on multiple occasions. House Bill 166 relieves primary care physician's offices of repetitive and unnecessary paperwork for such standing referrals.

MedChi requests a favorable report on House Bill 166.

For more information call:

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