

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise

DATE: February 21, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 194 – *Workers’ Compensation – Medical Benefits – Payment of Medical Services and Treatments*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 194 **ONLY WITH** the amendment offered by the sponsor of the bill.

As drafted, MedChi opposes Senate Bill 194, which we believe creates an arbitrary standard to allow employers or insurers to unfairly deny payment to health care providers who have provided care to injured workers. Senate bill 194 requires, within 45 days after the date that medical service or treatment is provided to a covered employee, a health care provider to submit to the employer or the employer’s insurer a bill for and documentation summarizing the services or treatment provided. A “45 day standard” is arbitrary and not consistent with other standards. For example, the timeframe for claims submission under Medicaid and Medicare is within one year.

However, MedChi does believe that it would be reasonable to require health care providers to submit a claim within one year of the date the care or service is rendered to the patient or when the claim is determined to be compensable by the employer or insurer, whichever is later. As such, MedChi strongly urges the Committee to adopt the amendment and issue a favorable report.

For more information call:

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