



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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**MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY, STATEMENT ON
ALCOHOL TAX FUNDING DEDICATION**

ANNAPOLIS, January 24, 2012 - In response to the O'Malley Administration announcement that the revenues from the recent increase in the alcohol tax will be dedicated to health care and public health programs, Gene Ransom, CEO, of MedChi expressed extreme support for this use of the funds. Mr. Ransom explained "MedChi strongly supports increasing funding for public health programs that improve Medicaid, mental health and Maryland's public health infrastructure." MedChi hosted an announcement at their Annapolis office with Health Secretary Josh Sharfstein, M.D., and the Lorraine Sheehan Coalition today to celebrate the funding news.

Mr. Ransom noted some of the funds will be used to support several key MedChi priorities including, but not limited to, allowing Medicaid to support full participation by physicians in the patient-centered medical home pilot and funding to support an innovative pilot approach to reducing health disparities through community-based expansions of care and services. "These projects have the potential to transform the delivery system and increase access to high quality health care" explained Mr. Ransom.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.