

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chairman
Members, House Environmental Matters Committee
The Honorable James Malone, Jr.

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

DATE: February 2, 2010

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 192 – *Motor Vehicles – Reading Text Message While Driving – Prohibition*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 192.

House Bill 192 prohibits the reading of text messages in the same manner that current law prohibits the sending of text messages. MedChi strongly supported the current prohibition on text messaging. There is no practical difference between reading and sending a text message – in both instances a driver must look at the texting device instead of the road, increasing the likelihood of causing an accident. MedChi believes House Bill 192 is a logical extension of the State's effort to decrease the incidence of distracted driving and its unintended consequences – motor vehicle related injury and death. MedChi urges a favorable report on House Bill 192.

For more information call:

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