

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman
Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Anne Healey

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

DATE: February 17, 2010

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 459 – *State Licensing Agencies – Justification Statements Required for Fee Increases Proposed by Regulations*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 459.

House Bill 459 requires any state agency that proposes to increase or decrease license fees by regulation to justify the change in supporting documentation submitted to the AELR Committee.

MedChi believes this is reasonable legislation that would inform the General Assembly of the reasons behind various license fee changes. While one would expect that most agencies already conduct the analysis required by the bill, those that do not should not consider the requirement to be overly onerous. Simply put, before asking the regulated community for more licensing dollars, the agency should ensure that the request is reasonable.

The Board of Physicians is an excellent example of an agency that has been forced to raise fees at times, but not always because of something the Board itself has done. On numerous occasions in recent years and again in the forthcoming budget year, the General Assembly has raided funds from the Board for the General Fund. Information such as this is an important consideration when determining whether a license fee increase is appropriate.

For these reasons, MedChi supports House Bill 459.

For more information call:

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