

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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

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

DATE: February 24, 2010

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 549 – *Maryland Perfusion Act*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, opposes House Bill 549.

This legislation would create a licensure scheme under the Board of Physicians for Perfusionists. The practice includes functions related to the support, treatment, measurement or supplementation of the cardiovascular, circulatory, or respiratory systems.

MedChi does not believe that this profession is one that requires licensure at this time. Other qualified and trained professionals, including physicians, are trained in the areas in which a licensed perfusionist would be permitted to practice. Creating another category of licensure in this area is simply unneeded, particularly when there are apparently only 60 certified perfusionists in Maryland today.

With so few numbers, even if all became licensed there would be insufficient revenue to support the licensure program. Programs such as these are supposed to be self-supporting, but that would not be possible with so few individuals to be licensed. The Board of Physicians is in no position to subsidize the establishment of new programs, particularly when physician licensure fees have been raided for general fund purposes.

For these reasons, MedChi opposes House Bill 549.

For more information call:

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