

MedChi

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

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

DATE: March 4, 2010

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1017 – *Health Insurance – Child Wellness Benefits*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 1017.

For any number of years Maryland law has required health insurance coverage for “child wellness services.” These services include immunization as well as various screenings (hearing, metabolic, lead toxicity, vision, etc.). As a normal part of such services, pediatricians regularly evaluate and treat childhood obesity which has become - in the last 15 years – a rising concern. Unfortunately, the health insurance industry has taken the position that such obesity treatment is not covered by the current Maryland mandate. House Bill 1017 would update Maryland statutes to recognize not only obesity treatment but all other developmental testing as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

If enacted, House Bill 1017 will ensure that future developmental testing which becomes a standard part of a child wellness visit with a Maryland pediatrician will be covered as part of Maryland’s child wellness benefit requirement.

MedChi would ask for a favorable report on House Bill 1017.

For more information call:

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