

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman
Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam

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

DATE: February 22, 2011

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 570 – *Health Care Providers – Training – Eating Disorders*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, opposes House Bill 570.

House Bill 570 mandates that physicians and other health care providers complete training on the subject of recognizing eating disorders in patients. While MedChi recognizes that eating disorders are an important public health concern, it does not believe that statutorily mandating training for physicians in any particular subject matter is good public policy.

Physicians are required to acquire 50 continuing medical education credit hours in order to renew their licenses every two years. See, COMAR 10.32.01.09. Physicians are permitted to frame those credits around their practice area if so desired or to seek education in new areas. MedChi believes this flexibility has served physicians and their patients well. MedChi does not believe that adopting a law mandating that these credits be in certain areas is good policy, and indeed believes it could set a bad precedent.

MedChi does note that as recently as 2009, the General Assembly adopted Chapter 414 (House Bill 756) which encouraged certain professional societies, including MedChi, to adopt training programs in the area of cultural competency. To the extent this Committee determines that training in the area of eating disorders is currently insufficient and a need exists to expand such training, perhaps Chapter 414/2009 would serve as a guide.

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For the reasons set forth above, MedChi opposes House Bill 570.

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