

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0871  
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056  
www.medchi.org

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

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

DATE: March 3, 2011

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 888 – *Health Insurance – Prescription Eye Drops - Refills*

---

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 888.

House Bill 888 addresses an all too frequent problem for patients being seen by ophthalmologists who prescribe “prescription drops” for various conditions such as glaucoma. Such prescriptions are usually dispensed in 30 day increments. “Drops,” unlike pills, will often run out before the 30-days because of spillage or a person’s inability to self-administer drops in an efficient way. House Bill 888 provides simply that a refill must be honored even though 30-days have not expired, where the doctor indicates on the original prescription that additional quantities of the eye drops are needed.

MedChi member ophthalmologists have regularly reported that older people, for example, routinely run out of glaucoma eye drops on approximately the 25<sup>th</sup> of the 30 days since the prescription was issued. If these patients “skip” the last 5 days waiting for the refill, the benefits of the medicine will not be realized. Such a blinding disease like glaucoma needs to be treated on an everyday basis and House Bill 888 will ensure that such patients have the medicines they need when they need them.

MedChi would urge a favorable report on House Bill 888.

**For more information call:**

Joseph A. Schwartz, III  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
410-269-1618