

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen
Members, Health and Government Operations Committee

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

DATE: March 17, 2011

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 1146 – *Electronic Health Records – Definition of State-Regulated Payor – State Employee and retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, oppose House Bill 1146.

House Bill 1146 would exempt the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program (Program) from the requirement that the state participate in the incentives required to be paid for the creation of electronic health records (EHR). Maryland is a leader with respect to EHR and, in 2009, passed legislation requiring insurance carriers including the Program to provide incentives to doctors for the creation and implementation of EHR technology. Under the 2009 legislation, the Maryland Health Care Commission was detailed with the responsibility to draw regulations to implement the incentive program and has done so. The MHCC regulations are presently proposed and will become effective shortly.

There is no reason to exempt the Program from the incentives required of all others. The Program insures approximately 80,000 state employees and their dependents. It has been the prior practice of the Program to incorporate any changes to state law made applicable to insurance carriers and the private insurance market. MedChi believes that this is a salutary principle and should not be abandoned with respect to EHR technology.

MedChi would request an unfavorable report on House Bill 1146.

For more information call:

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