

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chairman
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Kathy Klausmeier

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

DATE: March 9, 2011

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 701 – *Health Insurance – Prescription Eye Drops - Refills*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 701.

Senate Bill 701 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. Senate Bill 701 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 25th 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 Senate Bill 701 will ensure that such patients have the medicines they need when they need them.

MedChi would urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 701.

For more information call:

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