

MedChi

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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 10, 2011

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 710 – *Health Insurance – Provider Panels – Notice of Receipt of Application*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 710.

Senate Bill 710 requires that a health insurance carrier must give notice when a health care provider's application for inclusion in the carrier's provider panel is complete. The notice must be given within 10-days of the receipt of completed application. Once that notice is given, the "time clock" begins to run on the disposition of the application. Too often in the past, a health care provider has completed an application and assumed that it is being processed only to find out later that no processing has started because the carrier asserts that some document or information is missing.

Senate Bill 710 seeks a simple change in the law which will inform all applicants when their documentation is complete. The legislation changes no rules with respect to inclusion in a carrier's provider panel but allows for all parties to know if the process has begun or not.

MedChi would ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 710.

For more information call:

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