

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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

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

DATE: February 16, 2012

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 531 – *State Government – Commemorative Days – Prescription Drug Take Back Day*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,600 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 531.

House Bill 531 establishes an annual “Commemorative Day” relating to prescription drug take back. The day selected is October 29th which is currently a day nationally recognized by the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration. While House Bill 531 does not mandate concrete actions with respect to the proper disposal of prescription drugs, it is important as it reinforces the developing consensus that there are inadequate disposal opportunities for out-of-date or unused prescription drugs. Unused and out-of-date prescription drugs offer both safety and environmental concerns so that the creation of safe, accessible disposal sites is vitally important. This is particularly true as prescription drugs are increasingly used as medical therapy.

In the Fall of 2011, the Governor issued a Proclamation – at the request of MedChi’s auxiliary group known as the Alliance – which proclaimed October 29 – 30, 2011 as a “Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet Weekend.”

Critics may contend that House Bill 531 does nothing; MedChi would counter that the passage of House Bill 531 will underline, on an annual basis, Maryland’s commitment to creating safe and efficient disposal systems for prescription drugs and will further energize the appropriate stakeholders (page 2, lines 3-7) in carrying out that commitment on a regular basis.

For more information call:

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