

MedChi

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

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

DATE: February 29, 2012

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 688 – *State Board of Physicians – Athletic Trainer Advisory Committee – Sunset Extension, Program Evaluation, and Revisions*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,600 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 688.

House Bill 688 results from the 2011 Sunset Review of the Board of Physicians and, in particular, the review of the allied health profession of athletic trainers. The bill codifies that “supervision” by a physician can include in-person, telephonic or electronic means, and addresses whether or not a trainer can accept a referral directly from another health care provider such as a chiropractor, nurse practitioner, podiatrist, physical therapist or physician assistant.

MedChi supports the bill because it properly preserves the requirement that an athletic trainer be supervised by a physician. Expanding the type of supervision permitted to include other remote means recognizes that proper supervision can occur even when the physician is not on-site, but still ensures that the physician is in communication with the trainer.

Finally, MedChi supports allowing the trainer to accept referrals from other practitioners because the legislation requires the physician and trainer to address such referrals in the required “evaluation and treatment protocol” between the trainer and physician.

For these reasons, MedChi supports House Bill 688.

For more information call:

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