

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chairman
Members, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Douglas J.J. Peters

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

DATE: March 7, 2012

RE: **OPPOSED** – Senate Bill 530 – *Maryland Kinesiotherapy Act*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,600 Maryland physicians and their patients, opposes Senate Bill 530.

Senate Bill 530 would license the practice of kinesiotherapy in the State.

According to the Fiscal Note, no other state licenses this practice. Additionally, the purported scope of practice contained in the bill is shared with at least 3 other currently licensed health occupations in the State, including physical therapists, athletic trainers, and occupational therapists.

Moreover, there are only 9 kinesiotherapists in the entire State of Maryland. The bill requires that the fees charged for this profession approximate the cost of maintaining the program, but with so few in the profession it does not appear the licensure fees could be set in a reasonable amount and still adhere to this requirement. Indeed, the recent Sunset Review of the Board of Physicians and its Allied Health Professions – which this occupation would also be – notes that the fees among the allied health practices should be studied because it appears some are subsidizing others. Clearly, licensing kinesiotherapists would exacerbate this existing problem.

For these reasons, MedChi urges the Committee to oppose Senate Bill 530.

For more information call:

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