

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

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

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

DATE: February 19, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 225 – *Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 225.

House Bill 225 is designed to ease the transition back into civilian employment for members of the military and their spouses who are engaged in various fields, including health occupations.

Specifically, House Bill 225 credits the training and education received by these individuals while serving in the military, if that training is “substantially equivalent” to the requirements already set by the particular health occupations board. This requirement should ensure that the individuals are well-qualified to serve as licensed health professionals.

There is a provision of House Bill 225 which permits a health occupations board to issue licenses for a limited time where the training possessed is *not* substantially equivalent. This provision gives physicians some pause and we would ask that the Committee examine it closely. It is offset to a degree by a latter provision that prohibits a board from issuing a license that might pose a risk to public health, welfare or safety. In the end, a careful balance must be struck so that the worthy goal of quickly returning veterans and members of the military to the civilian workforce does not jeopardize patient safety.

For the reasons set forth above, MedChi supports House Bill 225.

For more information call:

Joseph A. Schwartz, III
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
410-244-7000

cc: Governor’s Legislative Office