

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable John A. Hurson, Chairman  
Members of the House Health & Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Dan Morhaim

FROM: T. Michael Preston

DATE: February 8, 2005

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 303 – *Health Insurance – Mandated Benefits – Smoking Cessation*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) which represents over 7,200 Maryland physicians and their patients supports House Bill 303.

House Bill 303 would require insurers, nonprofit health service plans and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for certain drugs, nicotine replacement therapy, and office visits to a physician or other health care providers to assist an insured or enrollee to cease the use of tobacco products. Such coverage is needed and would greatly increase the likelihood of allowing adult smokers who want to quit being successful in their attempts.

Clearly, helping current smokers quit has the potential to positively impact the health and economy for Maryland. While MedChi generally does not weigh in on mandated benefits, we feel smoking cessation is such an important public health issue that House bill 303 should receive a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

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