

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Thomas Mac Middleton, Chairman  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable James Hubbard

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

DATE: April 2, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 581 – *Hospitals – Establishment of Palliative Care Pilot Programs*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 581.

House Bill 581, as originally drafted, would mandate the establishment of palliative care programs at each general hospital with 50 or more beds, and set forth the specific requirements of those programs. MedChi had concerns with this mandated approach, but the amendments put forth by the Maryland Hospital Association alleviate that concern by substituting a palliative care pilot program at approximately 5 hospitals.

MedChi supports this measure, as amended by the House, and believes that the pilot programs and the reporting mechanisms imposed on the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene under the bill will result in useful information that will inform any expansion of palliative care programs.

MedChi urges the Committee to support House Bill 581 as amended by the House.

**For more information call:**

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