

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, Health & Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Shawn Z. Tarrant

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

DATE: February 19, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**– House Bill 723 – *Health Occupations – Physician Assistants – Authority to Practice*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 723 with amendment.

House Bill 723 allows Physician Assistants (PAs) to complete certain certificates and make certain authorizations that they are not currently permitted to make. These include certifying that a 16 or 17 year old is pregnant for purposes of obtaining a marriage certificate, completing birth certificates, filling out and signing death certificates, issuing written do not resuscitate orders, witnessing advance directives, completing Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment forms, identifying a mental disorder for purposes of a petition for emergency evaluation, and certifying certain disabilities for purposes of obtaining a parking placard from the Department of Transportation.

Med Chi supports the legislation in large part because all of these authorizations remain subject to the delegation agreement that exists between the physician and the PA. If a physician does not want a particular PA completing these tasks, the delegation agreement can be limited in that respect.

By way of amendment, Med Chi would request that the emergency evaluation petition section of the bill, found at p. 10, line 32 through p. 13, line 34, be deleted. Med Chi believes that this function should be limited to those health professionals already delineated in the law.

With that amendment, Med Chi supports House Bill 723.

For more information call:

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