

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman
Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chairman
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Sally Jameson

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

DATE: March 14, 2013

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 808 – *Health Insurance Carriers – Prompt Payment of Claims – Workers’ Compensation Claims*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, opposes House Bill 808.

House Bill 808 seeks to accelerate payments to doctors treating workers’ compensation patients by having them submit their bills to health insurance carriers which are required to pay such bills promptly (within 30 days) or be required to pay interest on such claims (page 5, lines 10-12). At the present time a doctor would not normally render a bill which he or she knows is a workers’ comp claim to a health insurance carrier.

House Bill 808 would allow a health insurance carrier to seek reimbursement from the workers’ comp carrier but has no mechanism to guarantee that the treating doctor would receive the proper payment under the workers’ comp medical fee schedule. Hence, a doctor could receive a lesser amount from the health insurance carrier than what is the proper payment and then be obligated to send a second bill, at a later time, to the workers’ comp carrier for the balance.

The bill, as drafted, is opposed by MedChi. However, if an amendment were added which provided that the workers’ comp carrier would be required to remit any amount owed to the doctor at the same time as the workers’ comp carrier is reimbursing the health insurance carrier, MedChi would be supportive of such amended legislation.

For more information call:

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