

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chairman
Members, Senate Finance Committee

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

DATE: January 16, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 79 – *Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Advisory Councils – Renaming and Termination*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 79 with amendment.

This legislation alters the composition of the State Advisory Council on Heart Disease and Stroke, and renames the group the “State Advisory Council on Chronic Disease.”

Currently, MedChi, along with the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA) and other interested parties, recommends names of individuals for the Council. Senate Bill 79 eliminates MedChi, MHA and many others from that process. MedChi is not clear as to why these groups – which all have an interest in this issue – would be eliminated. Nevertheless, our utmost concern is that there does not appear to be any assurance under the bill that a physician will remain on the Council. Accordingly, we would ask that Page 4, Line 3 be amended to read “two physicians or other health care providers”. While this language still does not require a physician presence, it would suggest that a physician should be involved.

Thank you for your consideration.

For more information call:

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