

# MedChi

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*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 Thomas Mac Middleton, Chairman  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Jamie Raskin

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

DATE: March 13, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 769 – *Health Benefit Plans – Proposed Rate Increases*  
– *Notice to Insureds*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 769.

Senate Bill 769 will require health insurance carriers to notify their insureds of proposed rate increases at the time that they file for same with the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) and allow for a 30 day public comment period after the rate increase filing. Unfortunately, it is a feature of the last few years that health insurance carriers make regular and substantial rate increase filings each year. In most cases, the rate increases are far in excess of normal inflation increases that one sees with respect to food costs, energy costs and the like. Too often, the rate increases are announced shortly before they are implemented giving little or no time to make alternative arrangements.

MedChi believes there is not sufficient oversight for these rate increases and that formalizing the rate increase process will provide greater oversight and more eyes on the rate filings. MedChi would urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 769.

**For more information call:**

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