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TO: The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chairman
Members, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Christopher Shank

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

DATE: February 28, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 815 – *Nonpublic Schools – Epinephrine Availability and Use – Policy and Immunity*

On behalf of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we support Senate Bill 815.

Senate Bill 815 extends the same requirements regarding epinephrine availability and use that were enacted into law in 2012 for the public schools. Food and other allergies are common among children and it is extraordinarily difficult for a school to comprehensively protect all children from exposure to substances that may trigger an allergic reaction. Further, sometimes allergies have been undiagnosed and a reaction for the first time may occur at school. Senate Bill 815 will assure that non-public schools have the appropriate policies and tools to intervene in cases where anaphylaxis is identified or suspected but a student does not have their own prescription of epinephrine. Prompt administration is essential in the response to anaphylaxis. Failure to respond can result in death. Ensuring that all Maryland schools have the tools to appropriately respond will increase the safety of our children and avoid unnecessary tragedies.

MedChi and MDAAP urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 815.

For more information call:

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