

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 Dan Morhaim

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

DATE: January 29, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 134 – *State Government – Commemorative Days – National Healthcare Decisions Day*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House 134.

House Bill 134 requires the Governor to annually proclaim April 16th as National Healthcare Decisions Day. National Healthcare Decisions Day is a national initiative to educate and empower both individuals and providers to understand the importance of advance care planning. Thinking about what you want before a medical crisis and putting those wishes in writing helps to avoid difficult situations and provides family members with peace of mind during those times. As part of this process, it is paramount that health care providers discuss advance care planning with their patients. House Bill 134 seeks to draw attention to this important topic and serves as a vehicle to begin these discussions between individuals, families and providers. MedChi requests a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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