

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chair
Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Peter Murphy

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

DATE: February 27, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** – House Bill 1029 – *Health Occupations – Dispensers of Devices and Equipment – Exclusion from the Maryland Pharmacy Act*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 1029 with amendments.

House Bill 1029 exempts devices and durable medical equipment (DME) from the Maryland Pharmacy Act.

The Pharmacy Act has been interpreted by the Board of Pharmacy as not requiring a permit for entities which provide devices and DME. This legislation would clarify that interpretation.

House Bill 1029 does not leave suppliers of devices and DME unregulated, however. The Office of Health Care Quality licenses them as Residential Service Agencies already, and that regulatory structure remains intact and ensures that the public is adequately protected.

MedChi supports the clarifying amendment put forward by the Board of Pharmacy, stating that if a prescription device contains a prescription drug, the person must still be licensed as a pharmacy.

For these reasons, MedChi asks that the Committee support House Bill 1029 with amendments.

For more information call:

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