

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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

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

DATE: March 6, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1296 – *Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – Review and Reporting of Possible Misuse or Abuse of Monitored Prescription Drugs*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 1296.

House Bill 1296 allows the administrator of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) to monitor prescription data and report possible abuse or misuse of monitored prescription drugs. If the administrator's review of the PDMP data indicates possible misuse or abuse of monitored drugs, the administrator may report the possible misuse or abuse to the prescriber or dispenser of the drug (page 4, lines 20-24). Before notifying the prescriber/dispenser, the administrator shall report the situation to the Technical Advisory Committee of the PDMP to seek clinical guidance and interpretation of the discovered data. At the present time, the PDMP data may be reviewed by various law enforcement agencies and licensing entities and various state departments (page 3, lines 25-32, page 4, lines 5-11). In each of those cases, the data is first reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee.

Even though the Maryland PDMP first became operational in December 2013, doctors are already reporting dramatic results when they use the PDMP to discover "doctor shopping" by patients. One pain management practice has reported to MedChi that its use of PDMP resulted in the practice discharging a significant percentage of its patients who were seeing multiple practitioners and dispensers and not being honest with respect to visits to other

practitioners.

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House Bill 1296 will allow the program administrator to search the data for misuse and abuse. An important part of House Bill 1296 is the reliance on the Technical Advisory Committee which is a unique feature of the Maryland PDMP law. Under House Bill 1296, the Technical Advisory Committee will be able to provide valuable clinical and interpretive information to the PDMP administrator just at the Technical Advisory Committee now provides such information to law enforcement units and state agencies using the PDMP data. MedChi would urge a favorable report on House Bill 1296.

**For more information call:**

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