

MedChi

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

FROM: Joseph A. Schwartz, III
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
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DATE: February 20, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** – Senate Bill 852 – *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 Senate Bill 852 with amendments.

Senate Bill 852 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.

Senate Bill 852 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 Senate Bill 852 with amendments.

For more information call:

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