

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk

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

DATE: March 10, 2015

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 580 – *Health Care Disparities, Cultural and Linguistic Competency, and Health Literacy - Continuing Education*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, opposes House Bill 580.

House Bill 580 requires certain health care professionals, including physicians, to obtain continuing education in health care disparities, cultural and linguistic competency, and health literacy. While these subject matters are certainly worthy of study by health care professionals, MedChi has long opposed the General Assembly mandating the subject matter of continuing medical education (CME), and it does so again here.

The reason MedChi opposes such mandates is because CMEs should be utilized to ensure that physicians have both the current medical knowledge and skills necessary to provide the best medical care possible in their area of expertise. If the General Assembly begins a policy of selecting areas and requiring CME in them, the door will have opened to many other causes and diseases seeking similar focus, and physicians and other providers will no longer be obtaining CME in areas that are necessarily pertinent to their practice.

While MedChi understands the sponsor's goals with this legislation, it does not support mandating the subject matter of CME in any way. Accordingly, MedChi opposes House Bill 580.

For more information call:

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