

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly

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

DATE: February 26, 2015

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1010 – *Health Insurance – Federal and State Mental Health and Addiction Parity Laws – Report on Compliance*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, support the goals of House Bill 1010.

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 is a federal law that generally prevents group health plans and health insurance issuers that provide mental health or substance use disorder benefits, from imposing less favorable benefit limitations on those benefits than on medical/surgical benefits. The Act originally applied to group health plans and group health insurance coverage, and was amended by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to also apply to individual health insurance coverage.

MedChi believes that a reporting mechanism is a reasonable tool to ensure that insurance entities comply with the requirements under the Act and, more importantly, that patients are receiving the mental health and substance use disorder benefits provided to them under the Act. MedChi requests a favorable vote.

**For more information call:**

Danna L. Kauffman  
Joseph A. Schwartz, III  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
410-244-7000