

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Brian J. Feldman

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

DATE: February 10, 2015

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 118 – Workers Compensation Commission – Regulation of Fees and Charges

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, opposes Senate Bill 118.

MedChi believes Senate Bill 118 does two things: the first is that it restates the existing law and, second, it adds an undesirable amendment to the current law.

The Commission already has the power to set fees and charges for “medical services or treatments” (see page 2, line 8) and reports relating to such medical services or treatments are already covered and, therefore, the provisions of the Bill at page 2, line 9 are not necessary. Medical “reports” are a critical part of all medical services, as doctors regularly write such reports as part of the patient’s file. MedChi does not have any problem explicating this, but thinks it’s unnecessary.

However MedChi certainly objects to page 2, lines 15-18, which appears to set the same fee for all medical reports. Some medical reports are more complicated than others, and fees should so recognize. For example, a doctor could give a rating to an injured worker indicating a percentage of disability after having treated that worker, and that report would not require a great deal of additional time over and above the treatment given and, hence, should not be overcompensated. On the other hand, a doctor may have to review thousands of pages of a patient’s medical history to determine if a proposed medical procedure is appropriate. That doctor should be compensated at an

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appropriate fee, which will likely be very much in excess of a more routine report. In a word, all “reports” are not created equal and the compensation should so recognize. MedChi believes that the provisions on page 2, lines 15-18 are intended to disallow the payment for more complex reports, and, for this reason, the bill should receive an unfavorable report.

**For more information call:**

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