

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Joan Carter Conway

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 25, 2016

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** – Senate Bill 462 – *Public Health – Copies of Medical Records – Fees*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,600 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 462, with amendments.

Senate Bill 462 addresses the amount that a health care provider can charge a patient who obtains copies of a medical record in electronic format. Current law sets the fees for records which are provided in paper format.

MedChi supports this legislation but would ask for two amendments. The first amendment would attempt to conform Senate Bill 462 to federal law, which indicates that the cost for the record shall not be greater than the entity's labor costs in responding to the request for the copy. Our second amendment relates to the repeal of the Consumer Price Index reference in the current law, which allows an increase based on that index. We are not aware of any reason to repeal that increase, which merely allows the costs involved to reflect inflation.

With the following two amendments, MedChi supports this legislation:

Amendment No. 1

On Page 2, at Line 21, strike “not to exceed \$15” and substitute “FOR THE LABOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH”

Amendment No. 2

On Page 2, at Lines 27 and 29, remove the bracket; at line 31, remove both brackets.

For more information call:

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