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TO: The Honorable Bobby A. Zirkin, Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Robert Cassilly

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

DATE: February 25, 2016

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 566 – *Medical Malpractice – Notice of Intent to File Claim*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,600 Maryland physicians and their patients, along with the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MDACOG), and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), we support Senate Bill 566.

This bill requires a claimant to send a health care provider written notice of the claimant's intent to file a medical injury claim against the health care provider at least 90 days before filing the claim. The Director of the Health Care Alternative Dispute Resolution Office may waive the notice requirement for good cause shown.

The physician community understands that the purpose of Senate Bill 566 is to give health care providers the opportunity to resolve malpractice cases before the case is actually filed. Such a letter would allow the responsible parties to reach out to the claimant or their attorneys to discuss settlement prior to initiation of a lawsuit. The physician community supports any initiative – such as Senate Bill 566 – which improves the possibility of resolution prior to the filing of a lawsuit, which will have the effect of decreasing medical malpractice cases while still allowing claimants appropriate relief.

Accordingly, we would ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 566.

For more information call:

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