

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly

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

DATE: February 22, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1312 – *Health Insurance – Medicaid Buy-In Task Force*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, **supports** House Bill 1312, which convenes a Task Force to study the feasibility of creating a Medicaid Buy-In Program. Under the bill, the task force is required to study and make recommendations on: (1) the benefits and consequences of a Medicaid Buy-In Program; (2) the circumstances under which the State should consider such a program; (3) eligibility criteria; (4) general parameters for a coverage package; (5) a financial structure; (6) the structure of a risk pool and the consequences of combining the buy-in risk pool with Medicaid; (7) an administrative structure; (8) an evaluation of whether a Medicaid waiver would be required to implement any task force recommendations; and (9) any other buy-in options that should be considered.

As the General Assembly continues to discuss design and funding options aimed at stabilizing the individual health insurance market, there needs to be both short-term and long-term options to ensure that all Marylanders have access to affordable health insurance options. MedChi believes that it is prudent, as a long-term option, to study the feasibility of a Medicaid Buy-In Program and the practical effects it may have for increasing insurance options to Marylanders. MedChi urges a favorable report on House Bill 1312.

**For more information call:**

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