



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

**News: For Immediate Release**

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## **LETTER TO THE WASHINGTON POST EDITOR 4/17/2015**

BALTIMORE, April 17, 2015 — Today's Washington Post editorial on the budget standoff in Maryland does not mention the fact that the Maryland General Assembly fenced off \$62 million in funding for critical health care and public health needs which only Governor Larry Hogan can actually spend for these items. As of today, Governor Hogan has not decided whether or not to do so.

On behalf of Medchi, the State Medical Society and the over 750 faith, community, labor, business and health care groups that are part of the Health Care For All! Coalition, we strongly urge Governor Hogan to fund these life-saving health and public health programs. If he does not do so, then up to 1400 pregnant women could lose their necessary health care coverage during pregnancy, many thousands of Marylanders could lose access to adequate health care coverage because of inadequate doctor reimbursements, the Regional Medical Center in Prince George's County would not get the money it needs to keep operating, and many Marylanders with mental health and developmental disability issues would not get the services they desperately need. We know that Governor Hogan cares about these issues because of the recent letter he wrote to Congress to urge full reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program which helped to get that done.

During this past legislative session, the Maryland House of Delegates went first to craft the General Assembly's budget and House Speaker Mike Busch and House Appropriations Chair Maggie McIntosh did a great job of making sure that the money was there to fund key health and public health needs. Now Governor Hogan must choose whether he will join them to continue Maryland's recent health care progress or put at risk health care coverage for many thousands of Marylanders.

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