



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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**MEDCHI STATEMENT ON HEALTH CARE LAW BEING UPHeld; MEDCHI
URGES FURTHER WORK**

BALTIMORE, June 28, 2012 – The Supreme Court of the United States handed down a decision today determining most of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including the hotly debated individual mandate, to be constitutional. The mandate was found by a majority of the Court to be a valid exercise of the taxing power, though a majority found that it was not supportable under the commerce clause. Chief Justice Roberts was the swing vote. MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society respects the Court's decision, and urges the President and Congress to seize the moment for a new beginning in our country's efforts to move the health care agenda forward.

The physician community has been divided on this issue. The American Medical Association supported the ACA, while the largest medical society in Maryland, MedChi, did not support the measure. MedChi expressed concern that the ACA did not fix the Medicare shortfall and failed to address the issue of defensive medicine.

Therefore, we hope the decision allows an opportunity to continue to improve access to quality affordable health care insurance for all Americans. Rather than quick reaction we hope that a larger discussion will occur in a reasonable and measured fashion. MedChi and the physician community will continue to play a major role as Maryland implements reform. The need for health care reform has not gone away and continues to be one of our nation's most pressing issues.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.