



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

**News: For Immediate Release**

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## **MARYLAND PATIENTS DESERVE TO KNOW WHO IS PROVIDING THEIR CARE**

*The Maryland General Assembly Considers a New Law to Help End Patient Confusion as to Who is a Doctor.*

BALTIMORE, February 27, 2012 – In an effort to help provide clarity and transparency for Maryland patients, MedChi recently introduced legislation that helps ensure patients know the education, training and licensure of their health care provider.

Under the “Health Care Professional Transparency Act,” all health care professionals will have to wear a name tag during all patient encounters clearly identifying the type of license they hold. Health care professionals will also have to display their education, training and licensure in their office.

“We believe that patients deserve to know whether the person they see is a medical doctor, registered nurse, chiropractor or other medical professional” said Audrey Corson, M.D., MedChi Trustee. “It’s not enough information for patients to just hear ‘Hi, I’m your doctor.’”

The bill comes on the heels of a new survey that shows there is significant public confusion about the qualifications of different health care providers.

The bill also promotes “Truth in Advertising” among health care professionals by ensuring that any advertisements or professional websites they have do not promote services beyond what they are legally permitted to provide.

Dr. Betsy Ballard, a physician and President of the Montgomery County Medical Society, who testified to pass this bill, said “We want all health care professionals – physicians and non-physicians alike – to clearly display their education and licensure so that patients know who is providing their care.” “Providing patients upfront with the education, training and qualifications of health care professionals can help them make more informed decisions about their health care.”

### 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](http://www.medchi.org).