TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable David Moon

FROM: Gene Ransom, CEO

DATE: March 6, 2020

RE: SUPPORT – House Bill 1400 – Cannabis – Legalization, Taxation, and Regulation

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports House Bill 1400 as it relates to the taxation of medical cannabis.

To be clear, MedChi does not take a position on the legalization of or recreational use of cannabis. However, MedChi has adopted a policy stating that medical cannabis should not be taxed, which is the current State law. House Bill 1400 will allow local jurisdictions to impose a sales tax of up to 3% on recreational cannabis use, but prohibits local governments from imposing sales taxes on medical cannabis: “A COUNTY, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT, OR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE MAY NOT IMPOSE A SALES TAX ON SALES OF MEDICAL CANNABIS UNDER TITLE 23 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.” See p. 75.

MedChi supports this aspect of House Bill 1400 but takes no position on the overall issue of the legalization of cannabis.