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House Health and Government Operations Committee

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House Bill 381 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports House Bill 381. This bill requires the Medicaid program and carriers in the fully insured private marketplace to provide coverage to victims of domestic violence for aesthetic services and restorative care by: (1) providing for the treatment of physical injuries caused by domestic violence, and (2) determined to be medically necessary by a physician who is licensed to practice medicine.

The Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an initiative of the Center for a Healthy Maryland, an affiliate of MedChi, leads the healthcare sector in addressing domestic violence through effective measures like screening, identification, education, intervention, and treatment. Over the past twenty-six years, the Coalition has pioneered training within healthcare settings, emphasizing the critical role that medical professionals play in supporting victims. Recently, the Coalition has been awarded a \$50,000 Counseling & Mental Health grant by the Prince George's County Council as part of its 2025 Domestic Violence Grant Program. This vital funding will support the Coalition's mission to enhance the healthcare sector's proactive response to domestic violence. However, victims of domestic violence need assurance that physical injuries received as a result of domestic violence will be covered for treatment by their insurer. House Bill 381 seeks to provide that reassurance.

We ask for a favorable vote on House Bill 381.

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