



The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org

House Health Committee

March 18, 2026

House Bill 1527 – *Complementary and Alternative Health Care – Practice Authorized*
(*Complementary and Alternative Health Care Practice Act*)

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **opposes** House Bill 1527.

This legislation would authorize individuals to practice “complementary and alternative health care” in the State without a license and would make exceptions to the licensure requirements for a long list of health occupations, effectively allowing these individuals to practice certain aspects of those professions without a license.

At the outset, it is important to understand why the State licenses health occupations to begin with. A license is what provides patients with an assurance that the individual providing care meets a satisfactory level of competency and has met certain objective standards like completion of an accredited educational curriculum and an examination, and in the case of physicians, completion of postgraduate training. These credentials protect against potential harm to patients, and in the event harm is done, the license provides the State with the authority to take action against those individuals to ensure it does not happen again.

Here, there are no standards provided and no license issued, effectively leaving the patient unprotected and the State without any grounds to take action. For example, and this is repeated for a multitude of licensed professions throughout the bill, a person who intends to practice “complementary and alternative health care” is given an exception from having to be licensed as a physician. See p. 8. The bill then provides the person with authority to perform a long list of duties without defining them. See p. 13. While the bill does exclude surgery and other duties from complementary and alternative practices, not all tasks that are considered the practice of medicine are excluded, seemingly leaving the individual free to practice other aspects of medicine. Conducting a physical exam is a basic example of what the individual would be free to do, even though that requires a license for physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

For these and many other reasons, MedChi opposes House Bill 1527.

For more information call:

J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000