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Senate Finance Committee

February 11, 2026

Senate Bill 435 – *Public Health – Medetomidine and Xylazine Consumer Protection Act*

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 435.

Senate Bill 435 addresses an emerging public health concern by establishing reasonable controls around the retail distribution and sale of medetomidine and xylazine products. These are substances that, while legitimate in institutional, veterinary, and scientific settings, pose risks when diverted or used outside of appropriate medical contexts. MedChi supports legislation that protects public health, reduces harm from substance misuse, and strengthens safeguards around potentially dangerous substances.

Medetomidine and xylazine have increasingly appeared in the illicit drug supply, and can be particularly dangerous when mixed with opioids like fentanyl. By requiring proof of legitimate institutional or veterinary use and enforcing age restrictions, the bill limits opportunities for these sedatives to be diverted into non-medical settings where they can cause harm. Reducing unregulated distribution protects patients and clinicians from encountering hard-to-treat drug exposures that complicate emergency care and public health responses. Limiting inappropriate access to these agents helps prevent misuse while maintaining necessary availability for legitimate professional and scientific use.

A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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