

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Nicholas R. Kipke

FROM: J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: February 27, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 922 – *Maryland Department of Health – “Pill Mill” Tip Line*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, **supports** House Bill 922.

House Bill 922 establishes a “Tip Line” within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) that provides the public with an easy to use telephone contact point to which they can report licensed health care providers whom they suspect are prescribing medications in violation of the law.

MedChi supports this legislation because individuals with this information currently may file a complaint against a physician with the Board of Physicians but may not know who to contact. The bill requires that the information reported to MDH be referred to the appropriate professional board for investigation. MedChi believes the professional boards are the proper entity to investigate these claims and to determine if in fact there is professional malfeasance. If the investigation raises the specter of criminal wrongdoing, the Board also has the authority under Health Occupations 14-411 to refer the case to law enforcement.

For these reasons, MedChi supports House Bill 922.

**For more information call:**

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