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TO: The Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Kathleen M. Dumais

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

DATE: March 8, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 777 – *Patient Early Intervention Programs*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), and the Maryland Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (MDACOG), we **support** House Bill 777.

House Bill 777 authorizes a hospital or related institution to establish a Patient Safety Early Intervention Program (“Program”) to provide for the reasonable investigation of an adverse event to determine if harm to a patient occurred and if the care provided to the patient deviated from the accepted standard of care. Any statements made during a discussion held in accordance with a Program is inadmissible as evidence of an admission of liability or an admission against interest in a health care malpractice claim proceeding or in a civil action against a health care provider.

House Bill 777 provides a mechanism to encourage communication and promote early settlement by parties after it is determined that an adverse event has occurred. By promoting early settlement, it will help reduce the costs of medical malpractice litigation while still allowing claimants to receive appropriate relief. Equally important, House Bill 777 will foster quality care improvements to prevent a recurrence of the adverse event without the fear that such improvements will be used against a provider.

MedChi, MDACEP, and MDACOG strongly urge a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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