

# MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Terri Hill

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

DATE: March 15, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT**– House Bill 1516 – *Public Health – Health Record – Payment Clearing House – Pilot Program*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, **supports** House Bill 1516.

House Bill 1516 requires the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), by December 31, 2017, to (1) research and evaluate existing health record and payment clearing houses; (2) develop specified standards for such a clearing house; (3) determine whether a clearing house should maintain a certain minimal summary data set; and (4) report to the Governor and the General Assembly recommendations regarding, and funding requests for, a health record and payment clearing house pilot program. Based on the above-mentioned study by the MHCC, the MHCC must then, by January 1, 2019, establish and implement for use in a pilot program a health record and payment clearing house. By December 31, 2020, and each year thereafter for the next four years, MHCC must submit a status report on the implementation of the pilot program. The program sunsets on June 30, 2022.

House Bill 1516 seeks to increase inter-operability and standardization of the health care delivery system in Maryland by connecting all aspects of the billing, utilization management, payment and medical records under one clearing house. Currently, these systems are separate silos, requiring physicians and patients to spend significant time navigating each one. By consolidating these systems, the goal is to save much-needed dollars, dollars which could then be used for patient care.

MedChi supports the goals of House Bill 1516 for the reasons stated above.

**For more information call:**

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