

MedChi

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

TO: The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Craig J. Zucker

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

DATE: March 15, 2017

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 1106 – *Health Care Practitioners
– Use of Teletherapy*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, **supports** Senate Bill 1106, **with amendment**.

Senate Bill 1106, as amended by the sponsor, creates a framework for the delivery of teletherapy services in the State. MedChi has been a strong proponent of appropriately structured telemedicine programs. These programs have the potential to greatly expand access to medically necessary services. Senate Bill 1106 would provide a framework for the provision of behavioral health services through teletherapy to address those circumstances when individuals are unable to access care in the presence of the health care practitioner delivering the service. MedChi applauds the sponsor for his recognition of behavioral health as a component of telemedicine. As amended by the sponsor, a favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

Pamela M. Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000