



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

**News: For Immediate Release**

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**HEALTH CARE ADVOCATES ANNOUNCE MAJORITY SUPPORT IN  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR LIFE-SAVING TOBACCO TAX FOR HEALTH  
CARE PROPOSAL**

BALTIMORE, May 22, 2014— On Wednesday, May 28th, at two press conferences in Baltimore City and Takoma Park the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society and other key health care advocates will announce that over 200 candidates for the Maryland General Assembly have expressed their support for the Healthy Maryland Initiative proposal to increase the state tobacco tax by one dollar per pack to reduce teen smoking and fund critical health care and public health programs. The Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative does not endorse candidates but will be educating the public about which candidates are supporting the Healthy Maryland Initiative.

The Press Conference will be at 11:00 a.m. at MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, which is located at 1211 Cathedral Street in Baltimore City. The second press conference will be at 1:30 p.m. in the main lobby of Washington Adventist Hospital which is located at 7600 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park.

Dr. Brian Avin, Immediate Past President of MedChi, states "MedChi is committed to increasing the tobacco tax in hopes of reducing tobacco caused illnesses. Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States that kills 400,000 Americans a year, including 6,800 Marylanders. Tobacco related costs in Maryland are 2 billion dollars a year when health care costs and lost productivity are taken into consideration. A tobacco tax increase will reduce smoking in young people and adults and will help fund the health care safety net and smoking cessation programs. We are excited about all of the support we have received on this issue."

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org).