



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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**MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY, APPLAUDS THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR PASSING CHILD SAFETY SEAT REFORM**

BALTIMORE, April 5, 2012 – MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society announced in January they would seek legislation to strengthen child safety seat requirements in Maryland to make them compliant with federal guidelines. Gene M. Ransom, CEO of MedChi, stated “We applaud the Maryland General Assembly for passing the legislation Motor Vehicles - Child Safety Seats - Requirements (Senate bill 185, House Bill 313), and we hope the Governor is quick to sign the bill into law. ”

In March 2011, the American Academy of Pediatrics released its revised Child Passenger Safety recommendations with the intent to educate parents on the best practices to protect their children from death or injury while riding within a vehicle, these guidelines include:

- Infants and toddlers should ride facing the rear of the vehicle until at least 2 years of age. States may choose to adopt age 1 requirements immediately, and phase in a requirement to ride rear-facing until age 2 within 2 to 4 years, with provision for educating parents in the interim about the benefits of riding rear-facing as long as possible.
- Young children should ride in car safety seats with a harness until at least age 4.
- School-aged children should ride in belt positioning booster seats until at least age 8 or until the seat belt fits correctly.
- It is recommended that children should ride in the rear-seat until age 13.
- Seat belt laws should apply to all vehicle occupants and should be subject to primary enforcement.

MedChi would again like to thank the sponsors of this legislation: Senator Jennie Forehand of Montgomery County and Delegate Dana Stein of Baltimore County for all of their support on this important matter.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. 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.