WHEREAS, the Maryland Board of Physicians investigates complaints concerning Maryland physicians submitted by the public; and

WHEREAS, once a complaint is received, the Maryland Board of Physicians staff conducts a preliminary investigation of the complaint, which includes sending a copy of the complaint to the respondent with a request for a response; and

WHEREAS, the results of the preliminary investigation are then presented to the disciplinary panel, which may decide to close the case with no action, close the case with an advisory letter (informal, nonpublic action), or instruct board staff to conduct a full investigation; and

WHEREAS, during the full investigation, the disciplinary panel may also refer the case for peer review (through its contracted peer review entity) to solicit additional expertise; cases involving standard of care require two peer reviews; and

WHEREAS, the disciplinary panel of the Maryland Board of Physicians, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum of the panel, may reprimand any licensed physician, place any licensed physician on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if a licensed physician violates any 1 of 43 statutory disciplinary grounds, including failure to meet appropriate standards as determined by appropriate peer review for the delivery of quality medical and surgical care performed in an outpatient surgical facility, office, hospital, or any other location in this State; and therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi support legislation that requires a Board of Physicians disciplinary panel to dismiss a complaint if one of two peer reviewers finds that the licensed physician did not violate the standard of care, unless two-thirds of the disciplinary panel votes to assign a third peer reviewer to the case.

As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 22, 2018.
Exhibit 1
State Board of Physicians – Complaint Investigation Process

1. Complaint received
   → Preliminary Investigation (PI)
   → PI presented to Panel
     → Panel closes case or issues advisory letter
     → Panel orders Full Investigation (FI)
     → FI presented to Panel
       → Peer Review
       → Respondent reviews peer review results and responds

2. Panel closes case or issues advisory letter
   → Panel offers pre-charge consent order
   → OAG prepares and serves charging document on respondent

3. OAG approves consent order
   → Parties Agree: Consent order drafted
   → DCCR (voluntary)
   → Parties Disagree: Refer to OAH for hearing

4. Opposite Panel issues final order
   → Exceptions: Opposite Panel conducts hearing
   → ALJ issues proposed findings of fact, law, and disposition
   → No exceptions: Opposite Panel issues final order

   → Judicial appeal