MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 11-14

INTRODUCED BY:  Public Health Committee

SUBJECT:  Water Tax Repeal

Whereas, one in three Maryland children is overweight or obese; and
Whereas, more kids than ever are being diagnosed with adult-like diseases such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, high cholesterol level, and hypertension; and
Whereas, sugar-sweetened beverages are the single greatest contributor to the obesity epidemic; and
Whereas, kids who drink sugar-sweetened beverages daily are 3x times more likely to be overweight or obese and 7x times more likely to be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes than their peers who don’t drink sugary drinks; and
Whereas, the cost in lives, health, and resources to the state of Maryland from obesity and its related chronic illnesses is staggering; and
Whereas, obesity and its related chronic illnesses are the single largest preventable cause of death and disease for both men and women; and
Whereas, increasing physical activity has had a modest impact on reducing obesity and its related chronic illnesses; and
Whereas, as physicians, we have a duty to espouse the best possible preventive health measures for our patients and the public, including encouraging consumption of water; and
Whereas, Maryland is only one of four states to charge sales tax on bottled water equal to the sales tax on sugary drinks, while not on other healthy beverages; and
Whereas, research shows that encouraging consumption of healthy drinks like water will reduce obesity and chronic illness; therefore be it
Resolved, that MedChi work towards implementing and supporting measures that will increase consumption of water in the state of Maryland.

As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 27, 2014.