



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MEDCHI APPLAUDS HEALTH ENTERPRISE ZONE ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNAPOLIS, January 24, 2013 — MedChi leaders applaud the O'Malley-Brown Administration announcement of several enterprise zones today. The new enterprise zones awarded and approved from various parts of Maryland all have a physician component to their programs, and the Eastern Shore grant includes MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society as a co-recipient. Lt. Governor Brown announced the designation of the State's first Health Enterprise Zones in five locations: Capitol Heights in Prince George's County, Greater Lexington Park in St. Mary's County, Dorchester and Caroline Counties, West Baltimore, and Annapolis. Community coalitions in each area will receive a range of incentives, benefits, and grant funding to address unacceptable and persistent health disparities.

Gene Ransom MedChi CEO explained "The lack of adequate access to a physician is a critical factor in the incidence of health disparities. Hopefully, these programs can begin to remedy that problem." It has been well documented that Maryland faces significant physician shortages across the State; shortages that are especially notable in medically underserved areas. Ransom went on to explain "Recruitment and retention of primary care physicians specifically in areas demonstrating high incidence of health disparities is essential to succeeding in the elimination of disparities."

Health Enterprise Zones (HEZ) were created by an Act of the General Assembly last year, and were designed to reduce health disparities among Maryland's racial and ethnic groups and between geographic areas, improve health care access and health outcomes, and reduce health care costs by providing a variety of incentives to defined geographic areas with high rates of disparities. Earlier today, at an event at the Statehouse, Lt. Governor, Anthony Brown, and Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene Dr. Joshua Sharfstein held a press conference announcing the final HEZ designations.

Gene M. Ransom, MedChi CEO, states "MedChi appreciates today's announcement and hopes it marks an increased and continued commitment to incentives aimed at addressing physician shortages and other access to care barriers in Maryland's underserved areas."

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.