

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0871
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Chairman
Members of the House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Robert A. Zirkin

FROM: Joseph A. Schwartz, III
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise

DATE: March 15, 2004

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 114 – *Evidence – Health Care Malpractice – Certain Statements and Conduct*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) which represents over 7,200 Maryland physicians and their patients supports House Bill 114.

MedChi is extremely appreciative of the efforts of the General Assembly in enacting House Bill 2 which contained some liability reforms and provided for a state subsidy of malpractice premiums in the near future. However, it believes that the reforms in House Bill 2 were not sufficient and that, unless further systemic reforms are effected, the promise of House Bill 2 will not be fulfilled. To that end, MedChi believes that a comprehensive set of reforms are necessary as outlined in its position paper entitled “**The Case for Medical Liability Reform Now, The Disease and the Cure.**” This position paper is attached to MedChi’s position paper on House Bill 1215 which is also being considered today. The correction to the recently enacted “apology” law contained in House Bill 114 is a part of MedChi’s comprehensive agenda discussed in that position paper.

MedChi is grateful to the Governor and the General Assembly for their leadership in the area of malpractice reform and respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 114.

For more information call:

Joseph A. Schwartz, III
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
410-269-1618