

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman
Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee
The Honorable James Hubbard

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

DATE: February 12, 2008

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 151 – *Health – Reportable Conditions – Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) which represents over 7,200 Maryland physicians and their patients supports House Bill 151.

House Bill 151 adds Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, more commonly known as MSRA to the list of reportable diseases that a laboratory must report to the State. The increased incidence of invasive MSRA has caused significant concern and its addition to the list of reportable conditions is warranted. MedChi would, however, urge the General Assembly to consider “modernizing” the statutory construction of the reportable disease mandates. The list of diseases continues to grow and consideration should be given to adopting the approach proposed by House Bill 393 which is being heard today as well. Should the effort to reform the entire statute fail, MRSA should be specifically delineated as a reportable disease.

For more information call:

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