

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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**TO:** The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman  
Members, Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Kirill Reznik

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

**DATE:** March 11, 2010

**RE:** **SUPPORT** – House Bill 870 – *State Board of Physicians – Facilities for Performing Elective Cosmetic Surgical Procedures*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 870.

House Bill 870 requires that “elective cosmetic surgery” be performed at an accredited facility. Elective cosmetic surgery includes procedures such as liposuction that are done with the purpose of “reshaping the structure of the body in order to change the appearance of an individual.”

By requiring that such surgery be done at an accredited facility, the patient is assured that certain precautions are in place, such as backup equipment and staff, should the individual develop problems during the procedure and need immediate medical or life-saving attention. A physician who performs such a procedure in a non-accredited facility would be subject to disciplinary procedure by the Board of Physicians.

Importantly, House Bill 870 exempts certain other procedures which are commonly performed in a physician’s office. For example, a primary care doctor who performs a biopsy, which “changes the appearance of an individual,” is exempted from the bill

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because that procedure is done using a local anesthetic. This and other exemptions make the legislation workable. At the same time, the bill provides patients with certain protections that MedChi believes are needed as cosmetic surgery continues to grow in popularity.

For these reasons, MedChi supports House Bill 870.

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