

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 Thomas M. Middleton, Chairman
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Kathernie Klausmeier

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

DATE: February 24, 2010

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 665 – *Health Insurance –
Dental Provider Contracts – Prohibited Provision*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports with amendments Senate Bill 665.

Senate Bill 665 protects the dentist from a contractual provision mandated by a dental plan that dictates fees to be charged by the dentist for services which are not covered by dental insurance. It is certainly appropriate for a health insurance carrier to require a physician or dentist to adhere to a fee schedule for services which are being reimbursed by the insurance carrier. It is not, however, appropriate for an insurance carrier to attempt to control fees for which the carrier is not reimbursing the dentist or physician.

Insurance carriers have disproportionate negotiating power with Maryland dentists and Maryland physicians. MedChi believes that Senate Bill 665 will provide some support to dentists and would ask that the bill be favorably enacted with an amendment applying it to all health care providers in Maryland.

For more information call:

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