

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 E.J. Pipkin

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

DATE: March 24, 2010

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 1075 – *Health Services Cost Review Commission -
Membership*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, opposes Senate Bill 1075.

Senate Bill 1075 would alter the membership of the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC). Currently, the Commission is made up of 7 members, 4 of which cannot have any connection to the management or policy of any regulated facility. Senate Bill 1075 would remove this requirement of 4 “disinterested” members and instead require that 3 hospitals and 3 insurers be represented, and also raise the number of members to nine.

MedChi would repeat its view previously expressed as to other bills that proposed to modify or extinguish the HSCRC: Maryland has managed to keep hospital rate increases at a far more manageable level than most states, and it has done so with the HSCRC comprised as it is and with the mission it has today. Accordingly, MedChi believes that any changes in its composition are unsupported and unnecessary.

For this reason, MedChi opposes Senate Bill 1075.

For more information call:

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