

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

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

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

DATE: March 15, 2011

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 187 – *Abortion – Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Regulations*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 187.

House Bill 187 directs the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt regulations related to the performance by a physician of an abortion procedure. Current law provides that the Department “may” adopt such regulations. Despite the existence of this statute for many years, it has not done so.

To be clear, MedChi does not take a position with respect to whether or not abortion should or should not be legal. Indeed, that is a matter of settled law in Maryland. MedChi’s position on this legislation is consistent with its historic position that medical procedures should be performed by properly licensed and trained individuals, and that they be conducted safely. Indeed, the Health and Government Operations Committee just last year adopted legislation requiring that certain plastic surgeries be conducted in accredited facilities to ensure the safety of patients during such procedures. MedChi worked on that legislation and supported it. It is in this same regard that MedChi supports the adoption of regulations which ensure that abortion procedures are also conducted safely.

MedChi believes that the Department can fashion appropriate regulations in this area, and MedChi offers its assistance to the Department in that endeavor. The public

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comment period on the regulations promulgated as a result of this process will provide all interested parties with an opportunity to provide input, and for the Department to consider all points of view on the matter.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, MedChi supports House Bill 187.

For more information call:

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