

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 Joseline Pena-Melnyk

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

DATE: March 8, 2011

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 287 – *Maryland Perfusion Act*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 287 with amendment.

House Bill 287 would license the practice of perfusion, a practice which involves assisting physicians during the course of open heart surgery and other related procedures.

Currently, there are 11 hospitals in the State which perform open heart surgery, and perfusionists are utilized therein every day. There are currently 60 perfusionists who work in Maryland. Approximately 17 states license this profession today. MedChi has heard from many of its cardiologist members who support the licensure of these individuals and have noted their importance to high quality, surgical care.

The one amendment which MedChi would urge is that the definition of practice of perfusion be clarified. The practice of perfusion, as we understand it, is always performed during the course of heart surgery. However, the definition provided on Page 3, lines 5-11 of House Bill 287 does not make this clear, even though it is MedChi's understanding that this is the intent. Accordingly, MedChi would suggest that in line 8, after "organs," insert "during the course of heart or related surgery."

With this amendment, MedChi supports House Bill 287.

For more information call:

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