

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chairman
Members, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk

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

DATE: April 5, 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 who have noted their importance to high quality, surgical care.

The amendments added by the House properly tighten certain portions of the bill, and are supported by MedChi.

For these reasons, MedChi supports House Bill 287.

For more information call:

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