

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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**TO:** The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman  
Members, Health & Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam

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

**DATE:** February 24, 2011

**RE:** **SUPPORT** – House Bill 444 – *Health Insurance – Provider Panels – Notice of Receipt of Application*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 444.

House Bill 444 requires that a health insurance carrier must give notice when a health care provider's application for inclusion in the carrier's provider panel is complete. The notice must be given within 10-days of the receipt of completed application. Once that notice is given, the "time clock" begins to run on the disposition of the application. Too often in the past, a health care provider has completed an application and assumed that it is being processed only to find out later that no processing has started because the carrier asserts that some document or information is missing.

House Bill 444 seeks a simple change in the law which will inform all applicants when their documentation is complete. The legislation changes no rules with respect to inclusion in a carrier's provider panel but allows for all parties to know if the process has begun or not.

MedChi would ask for a favorable report on House Bill 444.

**For more information call:**

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