

# 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 Kathy Klausmeier

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

**DATE:** February 3, 2011

**RE:** **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 5 – *Physicians – Professional Liability Insurance Coverage – Notification and Posting Requirements*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 5 with amendment.

Senate Bill 5 requires physicians in Maryland to notify patients in writing if they do not carry medical malpractice insurance. MedChi believes that patients should be informed of whether or not their health care provider carries insurance. Senate Bill 5 requires a provider that is *not* covered to inform all patients of this fact, both by a general notice in the physician's office and by specific notice to each patient. The notice requirement is triggered upon either the patient's first visit to the physician, or upon the patient's first visit after the physician is notified that coverage has lapsed or not been renewed.

MedChi would urge the adoption of an amendment relating to hospital-based physicians who are covered by the hospital's policy, rather than their own individual policy. Specifically, on Page 2, at lines 1 and 20, in each instance, after "MAINTAIN" insert "OR IS NOT PROVIDED WITH". With this amendment, MedChi supports Senate Bill 5.

**For more information call:**

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