

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0871
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 Kathy Klausmeier

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

DATE: March 31, 2011

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

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

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.

For the reasons stated above, MedChi supports Senate Bill 5.

For more information call:

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