

# MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chairman  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Karen Montgomery

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

DATE: February 9, 2011

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** – Senate Bill 203 – *Health Care Decisions Act* – “*Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment*” Form

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 203 with amendments.

Senate Bill 203 makes changes to the current “Instructions on Current Life-Sustaining Treatment Options” Form, which was originally adopted approximately 7-8 years ago. In addition to renaming the form to the “Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment” Form, the bill expands the settings in which such a form must be completed to include home health, hospice and assisted living facilities among others, and allows the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in conjunction with certain entities, to make changes to the form periodically.

MedChi supports this legislation with two amendments. First, MedChi would suggest that a patient completing the “MOLST” form should be given the opportunity by the health care facility in which the form is being completed to have their primary care or other physician present. Specifically, MedChi would ask that the following amendment be made: On Page 8, at line 3, delete “OR”, and on line 4, after “MAKER” insert “OR AT THE REQUEST OF THE PATIENT ANY PHYSICIAN.”

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The second amendment would require that a member of MedChi be specifically included among those with whom the Department will consult when altering the form. On Page 7, on line 9, delete “AND” and insert “THE MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL FACULTY OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND; AND.”

With these amendments, MedChi supports Senate Bill 203.

**For more information call:**

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