

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 Joan Carter Conway, Chairman
Members, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Karen S. Montgomery

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

DATE: February 24, 2011

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 258 – *State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners – Licensure and Regulation*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports with Amendment, Senate Bill 258.

Senate Bill 258 would remove the current prohibition against a physical therapist “using X rays” (See Page 2, lines 30-31, and Page 3, lines 23-24), in effect allowing physical therapists to evaluate and read them. Med Chi does not believe this to be an appropriate function for physical therapists.

Only a limited number of the licensed health occupations in Maryland interpret x-rays: physicians, podiatrists, dentists, and chiropractors. These professionals are trained in the proper use of x-rays, the safe use of them, and most importantly the interpretation of them. Indeed, they spend many hours learning these skills and practicing them. Compared to the amount of training and experience found in these professionals, the background of a physical therapist with respect to x-ray interpretation is minimal at best. Med Chi therefore does not believe that physical therapists should be authorized to interpret x-rays.

If this provision were deleted from Senate Bill 258, Med Chi would support the legislation.

For more information call:

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