

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 Thomas M. Middleton, Chairman
Members, Senate Finance Committee

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

DATE: March 15, 2011

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 960 – *Health Care Providers – Investigations – Information Sharing Among State Agencies*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 960 with amendment.

This legislation aims to provide hospitals and the regulatory bodies overseeing them with adequate authority to review patient care by physicians, particularly with respect to utilization.

Senate Bill 960 works to ensure that proper utilization review is possible by granting the Office of Health Care Quality and the Health Services Cost Review Commission the ability to review records of the Board of Physicians. While the bill would also provide the Secretary of DHMH with this authority, MedChi does not believe this is appropriate. The entities within the Department that have such authority now, or that are given such authority by Senate Bill 960, are more than adequate to accomplish the goal of these bills. In MedChi's view, allowing the Secretary to review the confidential and highly sensitive information at issue here could inject a level of political involvement that is unnecessary and which may cloud what should be impartial, objective and independent reviews of this information.

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chairman
The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, chairman
Senate Bill 960
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For these reasons, MedChi supports with amendments Senate Bill 960, which should be amended as set forth above.

For more information call:

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