

TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman  
Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable James Malone, Jr.

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

DATE: February 9, 2012

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 328 – *Health – Tattoo Facilities – Protection of Minors*

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On behalf of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we support House Bill 328.

House Bill 328 strengthens current regulatory requirements for tattoo facilities when securing consent from a parent or legal guardian for the facility to provide services to a minor. While parental consent is currently required, the consent provisions do not require the parent to be onsite at the time the consent is given or that granting of consent by the parent or guardian be provided in the presence of an owner, operator or employee of the facility. Further, there is currently no penalty for failing to properly secure parental consent.

The provisions proposed in House Bill 328 will ensure that the parent or guardian is on site when the minor seeks to receive tattoo services. The extent of tattoo services varies widely from small tattoos to entire limbs. Parents or guardians should be on site when those decisions are made and consent at the time the services are to be provided. Failure to comply with these requirements should be penalized. House Bill 328 provides important protections to the health and well-being of minors who often make impulsive decisions for services that have permanent consequences and significant health risks. A favorable report is strongly requested.

**For more information call:**

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