

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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

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

DATE: February 19, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** – House Bill 581 – *Hospitals – Establishment of Palliative Care Programs - Required*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 581 with amendments.

House Bill 581, as originally drafted, would mandate the establishment of palliative care programs at each general hospital with 50 or more beds, and set forth the specific requirements of those programs. MedChi had concerns with this mandated approach, but the amendments put forth by the Maryland Hospital Association alleviate that concern by substituting a palliative care pilot program at approximately 5 hospitals.

As amended, MedChi supports this measure and believes that the pilot programs and the reporting mechanisms imposed on the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene under the bill will result in useful information that will inform any expansion of palliative care programs.

MedChi urges the Committee to support House Bill 581 with amendments.

For more information call:

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