

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Norman Conway, Chairman
Members, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Kathy Szeliga

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

DATE: February 26, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 686 – *Professional Boards Special Funds – Transfer of Funds – Three-Fifths Committee Vote*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 686.

House Bill 686 would require that the General Assembly committee(s) of jurisdiction over professional funds, such as the fund of the Board of Physicians, must vote by a 3/5 majority to transfer any monies out of those funds.

In recent years, the Board of Physicians fund has had approximately \$5 million transferred to the General Fund. To make matters worse, the Board has informed physicians that it may need to INCREASE license fees in the year 2014 due to a shortfall. This increase would not be needed if the funds taken from the Board had remained there.

Whatever the mechanism may be, protecting professional license fees from transfer to other funds is important. These are not general tax dollars that were paid by physicians for general government purposes, and they should not be treated as such. They are license fees paid for a specific purpose, and that is the regulation of licensed physicians.

For these reasons, MedChi supports House Bill 686.

For more information call:

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