

MedChi

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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: March 5, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 869 – *Community Health Resources Commission - Revisions*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 869.

House Bill 869 provides the Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) with added flexibility and authority to meet its expanded role in assisting the State with the implementation of federal health care reform. Specifically, the CHRC will play a critical role in building the capacity and long-term sustainability of Maryland's safety net providers as the State works to meet the increased demand for services that will result from ACA implementation.

MedChi is extremely supportive of the CHRC. It plays a vital role in the health care continuum and has provided critical funding for creative projects tailored to the specific needs of individual communities. The CHRC's responsibilities include identifying and seeking Federal and State funding for the expansion of community health resource centers, developing outreach programs to educate and inform individuals of the availability of community health resources, assisting uninsured individuals under 200% of the federal poverty level to access health care services through community health resources, implementing Health Enterprise Zones, and assisting safety net providers to prepare for implementation of federal health care reform.

Passage of House Bill 869 will enable the CHRC to fulfill its expansive list of responsibilities in a more effective and efficient manner. It will provide the flexibility necessary to remain responsive as the changing demands in the marketplace unfold with ACA implementation. MedChi strongly urges a favorable report on House Bill 869.

For more information call:

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