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TO: The Honorable Sheila E. Hixson, Chairman
Members, House Ways & Means Committee
The Honorable Dana Stein

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

DATE: March 13, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1014 – *Nonpublic Schools – Epinephrine Availability and Use – Policy and Immunity*

On behalf of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we support House Bill 1014.

House Bill 1014 extends the same requirements regarding epinephrine availability and use that were enacted into law in 2012 for the public schools. Food and other allergies are common among children and it is extraordinarily difficult for a school to comprehensively protect all children from exposure to substances that may trigger an allergic reaction. Further, sometimes allergies have been undiagnosed and a reaction for the first time may occur at school. House Bill 1014 will assure that non-public schools have the appropriate policies and tools to intervene in cases where anaphylaxis is identified or suspected but a student does not have their own prescription of epinephrine. Prompt administration is essential in the response to anaphylaxis. Failure to respond can result in death. Ensuring that all Maryland schools have the tools to appropriately respond will increase the safety of our children and avoid unnecessary tragedies.

MedChi and MDAAP urge a favorable report on House Bill 1014.

For more information call:

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