

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chairman  
Members, House Economic Matters Committee  
The Honorable Barbara Frush

FROM: Gene M. Ransom, III, CEO

DATE: March 13, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1270 – *Health Care Facilities and Pharmacies – Sale of Tobacco-Products - Prohibition*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 1270.

House Bill 1270 forbids the sale of tobacco products in hospitals, doctors' offices, ambulatory care centers, hospices, nursing homes and pharmacies. All of these venues are places where health care is currently delivered to patients and MedChi believes that they are not appropriate venues for the sale of tobacco.

For the last 25-years MedChi has been at the forefront of efforts to restrict and restrain the sale and use of tobacco. During most of this time, MedChi housed "Smoke Free Maryland" which successfully argued for multiple increases in the tobacco taxes in Maryland, for the creation of tobacco cessation programs, and for creating smoke free environments in Maryland's bars and restaurants. MedChi believes House Bill 1270 is yet another step in the ongoing fight to eradicate the use of tobacco.

Tobacco is, without question, the number one public health menace to the health of Marylanders. Diseases engendered by tobacco use are our most serious and include cancer, heart attacks, stroke, emphysema and the like. No institution which delivers health care should be in the business of delivering tobacco.

MedChi would ask for a favorable report on House Bill 1270.

**For more information call:**

Gene M. Ransom, III, CEO  
410-539-0872, Ext. 3305