

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chairman  
Members, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee  
The Honorable Ulysses Currie

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

DATE: February 7, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 44 – *Occupational and Professional Licensing – Military Training and Military Spouses*  
**SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 273 – *Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 44 and Senate Bill 273.

Senate Bill 44 and Senate Bill 273 are designed to ease the transition back into civilian employment for members of the military and their spouses who are engaged in various fields, including health occupations.

Specifically, Senate Bill 44 and Senate Bill 273 credit the training and education received by these individuals while serving in the military, if that training is “substantially equivalent” to the requirements already set by the particular health occupations board. This requirement should ensure that the individuals are well-qualified to serve as licensed health professionals.

There is a provision of Senate Bill 273 which permits a health occupations board to issue licenses for a limited time where the training possessed is *not* substantially equivalent. This provision gives physicians some pause and we would ask that the Committee examine it closely. It is offset to a degree by a latter provision that prohibits a board from issuing a license that might pose a risk to public health, welfare or safety. In the end, a careful balance must be struck so that the worthy goal of quickly returning veterans and members of the military to the civilian workforce does not jeopardize patient safety.

For the reasons set forth above, MedChi supports both Senate Bill 44 and Senate Bill 273.

**For more information call:**

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cc: Governor’s Legislative Office