

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 Karen Montgomery

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

DATE: February 27, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** – Senate Bill 512 – *Health Care Practitioners – Identification Badge*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 512 with amendments.

This legislation requires a health care practitioner to wear an identification badge identifying the person's name and the title of that person.

The goal of the legislation could not be more simple and straightforward: Patients should know who they are talking to and what professional license they hold. In physician's offices and urgent care centers in particular, physicians work closely with nurse practitioners and physicians assistants among others. The patient should not have to ask with whom they are consulting, and the identification badge requirement provides that information to the patient on sight. Professionals should embrace this legislation as an opportunity to proudly display their credentials, and patients will be informed of basic information regarding their health care providers.

There is "cross-filed" legislation to this bill in House Bill 1356. The House bill actually contains a number of changes which serve to limit the setting in which this legislation would apply. MedChi supports this legislation with those amendments.

With the amendments conforming Senate Bill 512 to the House Bill, MedChi supports this legislation.

For more information call:

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