

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 Thomas Mac Middleton, Chairman
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chairman
Members, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Kathy Klausmeier

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

DATE: February 27, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 617 – *Drug Therapy Management – Physician-Pharmacist Agreements*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 617.

Senate Bill 617 pertains to drug therapy management agreements and would put physicians and pharmacists who enter into these agreements in group model health maintenance organizations on equal footing with those who have these agreements outside of that context.

Last year, in the Board of Pharmacy Sunset legislation (Chapter 658 of 2012), the General Assembly removed the requirement that physician-pharmacist agreements and protocols be approved in advance and, instead, required physicians and pharmacists who enter into such agreements to submit a copy of the agreement and any subsequent modifications to their respective licensing board.

Senate Bill 617 removes parallel language from the Health-General Article that applies to group model HMOs. Without this bill, physicians and pharmacists participating in drug therapy management in a group model HMO setting will continue to be required to seek approval for physician-pharmacist agreements and protocols, even though the parallel approval requirements in the Health Occupations Article were repealed under Chapter 658.

For these reasons, MedChi supports Senate Bill 617.

For more information call:

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

410-244-7000