

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0871  
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chairman  
Members, House Environmental Matters Committee  
The Honorable Donald B. Elliott

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

DATE: February 17, 2009

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 437 – *Bicycles, Mopeds, and Motor Scooters*  
– *Minors – Protective Headgear*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) which represents over 7,200 Maryland physicians and their patients supports House Bill 437.

House Bill 437 enhances the bicycle helmet safety law that requires minors under the age of 16 to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. The legislation includes “moped” in the definition of bicycle and extends the requirement for helmet use to motor scooters. It also increases the age requirement from 16 to 18 years, making it consistent with the usual definition of minor. Head injuries are a common cause of death and disability in children and teens. Mopeds and motor scooters also pose a significant risk of injury, especially given the speed at which they can operate and the added risks associated with the fact that they are motorized. Many lives have been saved as a result of the current bicycle helmet law. Extending those protections, by requiring compliance until the age of 18 and including motor scooters is a logical enhancement of a reasonable law that helps protect our children. MedChi urges a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

Joseph A. Schwartz, III  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
410-269-1618