

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chair
Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee

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

DATE: February 20, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 761 – *Health Insurance – Specialty Drugs*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 761.

House Bill 761 addresses the provision of specialty drugs designed to be prescribed for complex chronic medical conditions as well as rare medical conditions. These conditions require extremely expensive prescription drugs which cost \$600 or more for a 30 day supply.

House Bill 761 places a co-insurance limit of \$150 for a 30 day supply on such specialty drugs. Although that \$150 limit is indexed for inflation by the provisions of the bill (page 3, lines 26 through page 4, line 2), MedChi believes that this is an appropriate limitation which brings the specialty drugs into the range of affordability for those patients suffering complex, chronic or rare medical conditions. As such, the legislation provides appropriate monetary relief.

MedChi would ask for a favorable report on House Bill 761.

For more information call:

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