MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

TO: The Honorable Brian E. Frosh, Chairman
          Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
          The Honorable Sam Arora

FROM: Gene M. Ransom, CEO

DATE: March 25, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1015 – *Drunk Driving – Transporting Minor – Ignition
          Interlock System Program*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 1015.

Accidents that result from drunk and drugged driving take a significant toll on the citizens of Maryland each year. MedChi would assert that behavior modification is the sole basis upon which significant reduction in the incidence of drunk and drugged driving can be expected. To that end, MedChi was supportive of the passage of legislation in 2011 that strengthened Maryland's ignition interlock program, making it mandatory for offenses where the driver was found to have a blood alcohol level greater than .15. House Bill 1015 further strengthens Maryland's program by making the program mandatory for anyone convicted of a drunk or drugged driving offense regardless of their blood alcohol content.

Minors have no ability to avoid transport by a driver who may have been drinking. Unlike adults, they cannot, or would not, know to refuse to ride in a vehicle driven by a parent, guardian or other adult that has been consuming alcohol and therefore cannot drive safely. The responsibility for a minor's safety lies squarely with the adult who is driving the vehicle. Application of the mandatory provisions of the ignition interlock program to all drivers transporting minors who are convicted of an offense, regardless of blood alcohol level, will greatly assist in modifying the behavior of those who have chosen to place our children at significant risk for injury and death. MedChi urges a favorable report.

For more information call:
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