

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Aruna Miller

FROM: Joseph A. Schwartz, III
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DATE: March 5, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1291 – *Clean Indoor Air Act – Use of Electronic Smoking Devices - Prohibition*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 1291.

House Bill 1291 proposes to include electronic smoking devices in the ban on indoor smoking currently in Maryland law. MedChi has long been a strong proponent of initiatives to decrease the incidence of smoking and other tobacco use as well as protect others from the negative health consequences of exposure to second hand smoke. While some may assert that electronic smoking devices are often utilized by individuals as a means to stop smoking tobacco, there is no justification for the use of these devices in indoor areas where the public is invited. Maryland's "Clean Indoor Air Act" was designed to protect the public from exposure to second hand smoke. Extension of that law to exposure to the vapors, including any nicotine that may be contained in the vapor, is a logical extension of the objectives of the program to a new health hazard. MedChi urges a favorable report.

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