

MedChi

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

FROM: Joseph A. Schwartz, III
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DATE: March 11, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1431 – *Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients wishes to register its strong support for House Bill 1431. The Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC), first created to provide a mechanism for the State to provide grant funding to creative community based projects with the objective of identifying approaches to addressing Maryland's access to care challenges in underserved communities has been an invaluable force in Maryland's ongoing effort to assure adequate access to high quality health care services to all Maryland residents.

The Commission's impact on this objective is notable and has been recognized by policy makers as new initiatives related to the medically underserved have been identified. The Governor's Health Enterprise Zone initiative appropriately placed responsibility for the administration of the program with the CHRC recognizing its expanded expertise and sophistication in identifying and prioritizing State objectives regarding unmet community based need. MedChi fully supports the work of the Commission and urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

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cc: Governor's Legislative Office