

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Edward Kasemeyer, Chair
Members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

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

DATE: February 26, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 172 – *Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2014*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 172 with amendment.

MedChi supports the Community Partnership Assistance Program contained in Senate Bill 172 (page 14). Senate Bill 172 requires the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) to develop a Community Partnership Assistance Program to improve the health and well-being of the community and support the goals established in the State's All-Payer Model approved by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. MedChi has been an active participant in the development of the changes made to the State's All-Payer Model from its inception and is committed to continue its participation as the program is implemented. MedChi believes that the Community Partnership Assistance Program is an important vehicle to achieve the State's goals.

MedChi believes that stakeholder participation is essential, not only in the overall program design, but in the design of the Community Partnership Assistance Program. To that end, MedChi believes that there must be a collaborative process developed by the HSCRC in the development of guidelines for plans submitted under this program by community partnership entities. MedChi does question the limitations included in the bill on the type of entities that qualify as a community partnership and would suggest an amendment

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to broaden the entities by adding the following language “(8) ANY OTHER CORPORATE, BUSINESS, PROVIDER, OR CITIZEN ORGANIZATION THAT ENTERS INTO A PARTNERSHIP TO DEVELOP METHODOLOGIES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY.

Passage of Senate Bill 172 with the language to develop a Community Partnership Program is an important component of the State’s goals to modernize the delivery of health care services in Maryland. MedChi urges a favorable report with the above-noted change.

For more information call:

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