

# MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Thomas Mac Middleton, Chairman  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Catherine Pugh

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

DATE: January 29, 2014

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 198 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Telemedicine*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 198.

Senate Bill 198 expands the requirement for Medicaid to reimburse a health care provider for telemedicine to be consistent with current Maryland law as it applies to health insurance carriers. It requires the Medicaid program to “reimburse” a health care provider for telemedicine services in the same manner as if the service had been delivered in person. It is clear that the delivery of medical services by telemedicine is occurring on an exponential basis and is of particular value in accessing specialist care. The advantage of telemedicine is that the access can occur immediately rather than requiring the patient to make another appointment at another place at another time.

In 2013, Senate Bill 496 was enacted which required Medicaid to reimburse for telemedicine only for stroke and cardiovascular disease in limited circumstances. In large part, the limitations on the reimbursement were based on an estimated fiscal impact that was far greater than MedChi believed would occur. The fiscal note associated with Senate Bill 198 more realistically mirrors that experienced in other States. MedChi believes the fiscal impact may actually be less than that predicted as the estimate does not account for savings that will be realized from improved access and associated averted health care expenditures. MedChi urges a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

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