

# MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Christian Miele

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

DATE: February 26, 2015

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 591 – *Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Refills of Prescriptions During State of Emergency*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 591.

House Bill 591 applies only during states of emergency and extends the length of time that a pharmacist may refill a prescription from the current 14 days to 30 days. It further allows prescriptions to be filled if another state has declared a state of emergency, while current law only applies when Maryland has declared a state of emergency.

MedChi supports this legislation because it ensures access to health care, and because it has certain protections against abuse. For example, the pharmacist must first attempt to gain authorization from the prescriber, the refill may not be for a controlled dangerous substance, and the pharmacist must notify the prescriber within 7 days of filling the prescription.

Accordingly, MedChi supports House Bill 591.

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