

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

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

DATE: March 10, 2015

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 858 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Former Foster Care Adolescents – Dental Care*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 858.

House Bill 858 will include dental benefits through age 26 as part of the Medicaid coverage that former foster youth are eligible to receive. Dental benefits are important to the overall health of an individual, and especially important to this vulnerable population as they become self-supporting. Maryland's foster youth are entitled to Medicaid coverage until the age of 26, in line with analogous provisions for dependants under the ACA but dental coverage is only provided through age 21. Expanding coverage to include dental services through age 26 will place these vulnerable youth on par with other individuals their age who are covered by private insurance. MedChi urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

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