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TO: The Honorable Bobby A. Zirkin, Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Catherine E. Pugh

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

DATE: February 10, 2015

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 143 – *Health Care Malpractice Claims – Notice of Intent*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, along with the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MDACOG), and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), we support Senate Bill 143.

The physician community understands that the purpose of Senate Bill 143 is to give health care providers, and hospitals in particular, the opportunity to resolve malpractice cases before the case is actually filed. Accordingly, the bill requires that a letter be sent 180 days before the filing. Such a letter would allow the responsible parties to reach out the claimant or their attorneys and to discuss settlement prior to initiation of a law suit.

Unfortunately, Maryland has seen malpractice crises in the last 35 years, with the latest occurring in 2004-2005. The physician community supports any initiative – such as Senate Bill 143 – which improves the possibility of resolution short of a lawsuit.

Accordingly, we would ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 143.

For more information call:

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