

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable John C. Astle

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

DATE: March 18, 2015

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 792 – *Public Health – Nondiscrimination in Access to Anatomical Gifts and Organ Transplantation*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 792.

The main provision of Senate Bill 792 states that an entity may not, solely on the basis of an individual's disability; (1) consider a qualified individual ineligible to receive an anatomical gift or organ transplant; (2) deny medical and other services related to organ transplantation, including evaluation, surgery, counseling, and posttransplantation treatment and services; (3) refuse to refer the individual to a transplant center or a related specialist for the purpose of evaluation or receipt of an organ transplant; (4) refuse to place a qualified individual on an organ transplant waiting list; (5) place a qualified individual at a lower-priority position on an organ transplant waiting list than the position at which the qualified individual would have been placed if not for the disability; or (6) decline health insurance coverage for any procedure associated with the receipt of an anatomical gift, including posttransplantation care.

MedChi supports this bill and believes that an individual's disability should not be the sole consideration when determining whether the individual should be considered to receive an anatomical gift or organ transplant, and that the full range of supports available to assist an individual with a disability in managing their postoperative care should also be taken into consideration. To protect individuals with disabilities from unjust determinations, MedChi requests a favorable vote.

For more information call:

Danna L. Kauffman
Joseph A. Schwartz, III
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
410-244-7000