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TO: The Honorable Bobby A. Zirkin, Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Kathleen M. Dumais

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise

DATE: March 22, 2016

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 606 – *Patient Safety Early Intervention Programs*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP) and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MDACOG), we support House Bill 606.

House Bill 606 authorizes a hospital, related institution or an insurer that provides professional liability insurance to a health care provider to establish a Patient Safety Early Intervention Program to provide for the timely investigation of each report of an adverse event. A statement made by a party during a discussion held in accordance with a Patient Safety Early Intervention Program is inadmissible as evidence of an admission of liability or an admission against interest in a proceeding in the Health Care Alternative Dispute Resolution Office or in a civil action for health care malpractice against a health care provider.

House Bill 606 provides a mechanism to encourage communication and promote early settlement by parties after it is determined that an adverse event has occurred. By promoting early settlement, it will help reduce the costs of medical malpractice litigation while still allowing claimants to receive appropriate relief. Equally important, House Bill 606 will foster quality care improvements to prevent a recurrence of the adverse event without the fear that such improvements will be used against a provider.

MedChi, MDACEP, and MDACOG strongly urge a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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