

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 David E. Vogt

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pam M. Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 23, 2016

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 885 – *Behavioral Health Administration – Creation and Maintenance of Mental Health Professional Profiles (Patient Protection Provider Information Act)*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,600 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 885, with amendment.

House Bill 885 creates a public individual profile for all mental health providers, including physicians. The apparent goal of this legislation is to provide information to the public on the background of such providers.

For physicians, this information is already available on the Board of Physicians website. In fact, the language in House Bill 885 mirrors that which governs the public profiles of physicians. Accordingly, MedChi sees no need to repeat this information under the Behavioral Health Administration. This will create possibilities for inconsistent information, delays in updating information and other similar problems. MedChi does not take a position on whether these profiles are needed or necessary for other providers, but simply asks that physicians be deleted from the bill for the reasons set forth herein.

Amendments:

On Page 2, in Line 10, strike “physician”; strike lines 13-14 in their entirety; strike, in line 19, beginning with “:” down through (I) in line 26.

For more information call:

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