

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Roger P. Manno

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

DATE: March 9, 2016

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 933 – *War on Cancer and Diabetes – Awareness Campaign*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,600 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 933.

Passage of Senate Bill 933 will result in the establishment of a statewide public information, awareness, and education campaign on the early detection and prevention of cancer and diabetes. Cancer and diabetes are diseases that strike a significant percentage of the population. Increasing public awareness will result in increased management of diabetes, a chronic disease that, if not managed properly, could lead to death or significant disability. Cancer often strikes without warning and can create long term health consequences or death if not identified early. Early identification also leads to better management.

The public information, awareness and education campaign is required to reach out to the general public and at-risk populations; disseminate information about early detection and prevention through multiple media, including television and radio; and, distribute materials free of charge to local health departments, community clinics, and other locations. The bill authorizes the Secretary to apply for any available private or federal funding and grants, and may request the services of interested advocacy groups. The saying “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” is definitely applicable with respect to cancer and diabetes. Passage of Senate Bill 933 will help ensure that there is an appropriate focus on community outreach and education on the importance of prevention and early identification of cancer and diabetes.

MedChi urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

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