

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 Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Terri L. Hill
The Honorable Nicholas R. Kipke

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

DATE: February 8, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 135 – *Health Insurance – Coverage for Male Sterilization – High-Deductible Health Plans*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, **supports** House Bill 135. House Bill 135 authorizes a high-deductible health plan to apply a deductible to coverage for male sterilization.

House Bill 135 is a necessary bill to ensure that individuals with high deductible plans using health savings accounts can continue to use those accounts in Maryland and not incur a tax penalty. MedChi's support is founded on our concern that, if individuals no longer have access to health savings accounts and the tax benefits afforded by them, health care costs will increase. Many individuals and families, especially those with high deductible plans, are already experiencing problems meeting cost sharing requirements connected with these plans. Eliminating the benefits of health savings accounts will simply exacerbate these issues and could further delay treatment.

For these reasons, MedChi requests a favorable vote on House Bill 135.

For more information call:

Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Richard A. Tabuteau
410-244-7000