

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Ned Carey

FROM: J. Steven Wise
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DATE: March 7, 2018

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 1266 – *Health Occupations – Treatment of Lyme Disease and Other Tick-Borne Diseases – Disciplinary Actions*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, **opposes** House Bill 1266.

House Bill 1266 prohibits health licensure boards from disciplining providers for recommending courses of treatment that have not been proven effective. The driving force behind the bill is the prevalence of Lyme disease and the fact that treatment options are in some cases elusive, and MedChi understands patient frustration when there are not cures for this and other diseases.

However, this legislation seeks to remedy the problem in an even more problematic manner. The practice of medicine is centered on offering treatments that have been proven through clinical trials, research, and study, and from this become the “standard of care”. Health care providers are rightfully held to the standard of care in disciplinary cases to ensure that they are not recommending and using unproven remedies that are not efficacious. While well intended, MedChi is very concerned that this legislation opens the door to the use of unproven treatments by providers, and then excuses those same providers from proper disciplinary action.

For these reasons, MedChi opposes this bill.

For more information call:

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