

MedChi

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

FROM: J. Steven Wise
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DATE: January 23, 2018

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 131 – *Child Abuse and Neglect – Training*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), we submit this letter of **opposition** for Senate Bill 131.

This legislation would require that every health care practitioner, including physicians, receive periodic training on the obligation to report abuse and neglect, and how to recognize abused and neglected children.

MedChi recognizes the obligation that physicians have to identify and report child abuse. However, we do not support a training mandate that covers all physicians, regardless of specialty and whether the physician ever sees children in their practice. MedChi has always resisted attempts to mandate continuing medical education in specific areas because the practice of medicine and the specialties within it vary so much, and certain training efforts simply do not make sense for all types of physicians. We view the mandate contained in this legislation in the same way.

For these reasons, MedChi would ask for an unfavorable report on this legislation.

For more information call:

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