

# MedChi

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*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 Joan Carter Conway, Chair  
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
The Honorable James N. Mathias, Jr.  
The Honorable Adelaide C. Eckardt

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

DATE: March 7, 2018

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 871 – *State Board of Physicians – Discipline for Alternative Treatments – Prohibition*  
**OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 950 – *Health Occupations – Treatment of Lyme Disease and Other Tick-Borne Diseases – Disciplinary Actions*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, **opposes** Senate Bill 871 and Senate Bill 950.

Both of these bills prohibit health licensure boards from disciplining providers for recommending courses of treatment that have not been proven effective. The driving force behind the bills 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 these bills.

**For more information call:**

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

410-244-7000