

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 Cheryl D. Glenn

FROM: Gene M. Ransom, III

DATE: January 29, 2019

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 18 – *Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission – Certifying Providers*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendment** House Bill 18.

House Bill 18 proposes to expand what types of health care providers are authorized to register with the Cannabis Commission to be a certifying provider to include physical therapists, psychologists, and physician assistants. Under current law, a certifying provider must have prescriptive authority and have a State controlled dangerous substances (CDS) registration. MedChi believes it is essential that a certifying provider have prescriptive authority and hold a CDS registration. MedChi supports allowing all licensed health care providers, regardless of type of licensure or certification that hold a CDS, to have authority to be a certifying provider. However, physical therapists and psychologists do not have prescriptive authority and cannot hold a CDS registration. For that reason, MedChi requests that the bill be amended to delete authorization for physical therapists and psychologists. With the adoption of the noted amendments, MedChi supports passage of House Bill 18.

For more information call:

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