

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 Jefferson L. Ghrist

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
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J. Steven Wise
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DATE: February 21, 2019

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 829 – *Health Insurance – Provider Panels – Graduate Providers*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 829. This bill prohibits a carrier from rejecting a provider who provides community-based health services from participation on the carrier's provider panel solely because the provider is a licensed graduate social worker (LGSW), a licensed master social worker (LMSW), or a licensed graduate professional counselor (LGPC).

Access to behavioral health services continues to be an issue, especially in the rural areas of the State. By including LGSW, LMSW and LGPCs on provider panels, individuals will have greater access to needed behavioral health treatment services.

MedChi urges a favorable vote on House Bill 829.

For more information call:

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