TO:     The Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Chairman
       Members of the House Judiciary Committee
       The Honorable Robert A. Zirkin

FROM:  Joseph A. Schwartz, III
       Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
       J. Steven Wise

DATE:  March 15, 2004

RE:     SUPPORT – House Bill 114 – Evidence – Health Care Malpractice – Certain
        Statements and Conduct

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) which represents over 7,200 Maryland
physicians and their patients supports House Bill 114.

MedChi is extremely appreciative of the efforts of the General Assembly in enacting
House Bill 2 which contained some liability reforms and provided for a state subsidy of
malpractice premiums in the near future. However, it believes that the reforms in House Bill
2 were not sufficient and that, unless further systemic reforms are effected, the promise of
House Bill 2 will not be fulfilled. To that end, MedChi believes that a comprehensive set of
reforms are necessary as outlined in its position paper entitled “The Case for Medical
Liability Reform Now, The Disease and the Cure.” This position paper is attached to
MedChi’s position paper on House Bill 1215 which is also being considered today. The
correction to the recently enacted “apology” law contained in House Bill 114 is a part of
MedChi’s comprehensive agenda discussed in that position paper.

MedChi is grateful to the Governor and the General Assembly for their leadership in the
area of malpractice reform and respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 114.

For more information call:
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