TO: The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chairman  
    Members, Senate Finance Committee  
    The Honorable Kathernie Klausmeier  

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

DATE: February 24, 2010  

RE: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT – Senate Bill 665 – Health Insurance –  
    Dental Provider Contracts – Prohibited Provision

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,300 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports with amendments Senate Bill 665.

Senate Bill 665 protects the dentist from a contractual provision mandated by a dental plan that dictates fees to be charged by the dentist for services which are not covered by dental insurance. It is certainly appropriate for a health insurance carrier to require a physician or dentist to adhere to a fee schedule for services which are being reimbursed by the insurance carrier. It is not, however, appropriate for an insurance carrier to attempt to control fees for which the carrier is not reimbursing the dentist or physician.

Insurance carriers have disproportionate negotiating power with Maryland dentists and Maryland physicians. MedChi believes that Senate Bill 665 will provide some support to dentists and would ask that the bill be favorably enacted with an amendment applying it to all health care providers in Maryland.

For more information call:  
Joseph A. Schwartz, III  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
410-269-1618