TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman
   Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee
   The Honorable Veronica Turner

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

DATE: February 22, 2011

RE: SUPPORT – House Bill 709 – Health Officers – Authority to Enter into
    Contracts or Agreements for Delivery of Health Care Services

On behalf of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland
Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we support House Bill 709.

House Bill 709 will enable local health departments to contract with insurers and
other private payers for the delivery of health care services. Local health department
budgets have been under increasing constraint as budgetary challenges have resulted
in significant reductions in resources and programs. Despite these challenges, local
health departments often are the only source of care for Maryland residents who live
in areas where access to care is significantly restricted.

Insured persons, in addition to uninsured persons are often the recipients of direct
services provided by local health departments, either by health department employees
or through contracts with community providers. However, local health departments
currently are unable to bill for these services when an individual is covered by
insurance. Passage of House Bill 709 offers the potential to reimburse local health
departments for covered services they deliver and thus provide much needed revenues
to supplement their constrained budgets. MedChi and MDAAP urge support of
House Bill 709.

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