TO: The Honorable Thomas Mac Middleton, Chairman
Members, Senate Finance Committee

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

DATE: February 12, 2013

RE: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT – Senate Bill 386 – Department of Health
and Mental Hygiene – Study of Paratransit Services for Dialysis Patients

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland
physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 386 with amendment.

Senate Bill 386, as amended by the sponsor, will provide for a study of the demand for
and financing of paratransit services by local jurisdictions, specifically as it relates to dialysis
patients. As the demand for dialysis services continues to increase, it is critical that funding
for local paratransit services keeps pace with that demand. Many dialysis patients rely upon
their local paratransit services for transportation to and from dialysis centers. Without access
to these transit services access to care is jeopardized.

Dialysis centers are prohibited, under federal law, from providing transportation for their
patients. While many dialysis patients provide their own transportation, there are those
patients who have no option but to rely on local transportation networks. Inadequate funding
has led to the curtailment of local transportation services thereby creating significant barriers
to access for those most in need of these services. Passage of Senate Bill 386 will ensure that
the state carefully evaluate whether funding is keeping pace with demand for service. The
amendments offered by the sponsor of the legislation clarify the focus of the study. MedChi
urges a favorable report as amended.

For more information call:
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