TO: The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chairman
    Members, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Brian E. Frosh, Chairman
    Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Karen Montgomery

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

DATE: February 27, 2013

RE: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT – Senate Bill 593 – Health Occupations
    Boards – License Renewal, Investigation of Alleged Violations, and Immunity
    from Liability

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland
physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 593 with amendment.

This legislation pertains mostly to licensed health professions other than physicians. It
affects physicians in one respect however, and that is regarding license renewal.

New Section 1-220 requires each health occupations board to develop a system for
distributing renewal notices electronically. The Board of Physicians Sunset Report notes that
in recent years nearly 100% of physicians have renewed online, and MedChi fully supports
this approach because it is effective for licensees and efficient for the Board.

However, MedChi believes that a mechanism should exist whereby a physician can still
request to receive by mail a written renewal notice. The reasons for this may be that the
physician will be working abroad and not have access to a computer, or various other
reasons. But the legislation, as drafted, would allow the boards to completely discontinue the
practice of mailing written notices and would not recognize that circumstances may exist,
however uncommon they may be, that would require a written notice. Accordingly, MedChi
urges the following amendments:

(OVER)
On Page 3, line 7, insert “SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH 4,” prior to “discontinue.” On the same page at the end of line 18, insert “AND 4) CONTINUE TO SEND BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL A RENEWAL APPLICATION IF REQUESTED BY THE LICENSEE.”

With these amendments, MedChi supports this legislation.

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