TO:    The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chairman
       Members, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
       The Honorable Roger Manno

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

DATE:  March 5, 2013

RE:    SUPPORT – Senate Bill 675 – Maryland Pesticide Reporting and Information
       Act

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland
physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 675.

Senate Bill 675 requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to create a centralized
database to collect information on the use of pesticides in Maryland, including which pesticide was
used and the location and timing of the application. While pesticide applicators certified by the State
of Maryland are currently required to maintain records of their use of pesticides, there is not a
centralized database available to state and public health agencies, research institutions and health
care professionals.

Pesticide use can have health effects and consequences beyond the purpose for which they are
utilized. The creation of the database proposed in Senate Bill 675 will be valuable in helping to
identify and evaluate these unintended health consequences for the benefit of public health broadly.
This information would also be useful in the investigation of specific outbreaks and clusters of
disease that might be linked to the use of a particular pesticide. Furthermore, as many pesticides
could also be used as chemical weapons, the requirement in this bill to report the sale and purchase
of pesticides could prove instrumental in preventing acts of terrorism as well.

As there are existing gaps in our knowledge on pesticides, particularly the effects of chronic
exposure, the database proposed in Senate Bill 675 would be a resource of significant potential
public health benefit to all Maryland citizens. MedChi urges a favorable report.

For more information call:
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