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

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

DATE: February 28, 2013

RE: SUPPORT – Senate Bill 815 – Nonpublic Schools – Epinephrine
    Availability and Use – Policy and Immunity

On behalf of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the
Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we support
Senate Bill 815.

Senate Bill 815 extends the same requirements regarding epinephrine availability
and use that were enacted into law in 2012 for the public schools. Food and other
allergies are common among children and it is extraordinarily difficult for a school to
comprehensively protect all children from exposure to substances that may trigger an
allergic reaction. Further, sometimes allergies have been undiagnosed and a reaction
for the first time may occur at school. Senate Bill 815 will assure that non-public
schools have the appropriate policies and tools to intervene in cases where
anaphylaxis is identified or suspected but a student does not have their own
prescription of epinephrine. Prompt administration is essential in the response to
anaphylaxis. Failure to respond can result in death. Ensuring that all Maryland
schools have the tools to appropriately respond will increase the safety of our children
and avoid unnecessary tragedies.

MedChi and MDAAP urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 815.

For more information call:
Joseph A. Schwartz, III
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
(410) 244-7000