TO: The Honorable Norman H. Conway, Chair
    Members, House Appropriations Committee

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

DATE: February 28, 2014

RE: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT – House Bill 162 – Budget Reconciliation
    and Financing Act of 2014

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000
Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 162 with amendment.

MedChi supports the Community Partnership Assistance Program contained in House Bill
162 (page 14). House Bill 162 requires the Health Services Cost Review Commission
(HSCRC) to develop a Community Partnership Assistance Program to improve the health
and well-being of the community and support the goals established in the State’s All-Payer
Model approved by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. MedChi has been an
active participant in the development of the changes made to the State’s All-Payer Model
from its inception and is committed to continue its participation as the program is
implemented. MedChi believes that the Community Partnership Assistance Program is an
important vehicle to achieve the State’s goals.

MedChi believes that stakeholder participation is essential, not only in the overall
program design, but in the design of the Community Partnership Assistance Program. To
that end, MedChi believes that there must be a collaborative process developed by the
HSCRC in the development of guidelines for plans submitted under this program by
community partnership entities. MedChi does question the limitations included in the bill on
the type of entities that qualify as a community partnership and would suggest an amendment
to broaden the entities by adding the following language “(8) ANY OTHER CORPORATE, BUSINESS, PROVIDER, OR CITIZEN ORGANIZATION THAT ENTERS INTO A PARTNERSHIP TO DEVELOP METHODOLOGIES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY.

Passage of House Bill 162 with the language to develop a Community Partnership Program is an important component of the State’s goals to modernize the delivery of health care services in Maryland. MedChi urges a favorable report with the above-noted change.

For more information call:
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