TO: The Honorable Thomas Mac Middleton, Chair
   Members, Senate Finance Committee
   The Honorable Brian E. Frosh
   Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
   The Honorable Roger Manno

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

DATE: March 13, 2014

RE: SUPPORT – Senate Bill 915 – Public Health – Emergency Use Auto-
   Injectable Epinephrine Program

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 915.

This bill establishes an Emergency Use Auto-Injectable Epinephrine Program in the
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), which authorizes certain individuals
(through the issuance of a certificate) to administer epinephrine to an individual
experiencing, or believed to be experiencing, anaphylaxis in an emergency situation when
medical services are not immediately available. To qualify for a certificate, an individual
must be (1) 18 or older; (2) have, or reasonably expect to have, responsibility for at least one
other person in their line of work or due to their volunteer status; and (3) successfully
complete an educational training program approved by the department.

MedChi and MDAAP support this bill. Food allergies are a common cause of
anaphylaxis and represent the most common cause of anaphylaxis among children and
adolescents. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergies in
children aged 0-17 increased from 3.4% in 1997–1999 to 5.1% in 2009-2011. Other
common causes of anaphylaxis include insect stings or bites, latex, and medications. The
most rapidly effective treatment for anaphylaxis is epinephrine by injection. Epinephrine is
adrenaline and it rapidly reverses anaphylactic symptoms. Senate Bill 915 sets up a
lifesaving, voluntary protocol to allow the quick administration of epinephrine needed when
an individual is experiencing anaphylaxis. For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on
Senate Bill 915.

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