TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chair
       Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
       The Honorable Christian Miele

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

DATE: February 26, 2015

RE: SUPPORT – House Bill 591 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Refills of
         Prescriptions During State of Emergency

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland
physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 591.

House Bill 591 applies only during states of emergency and extends the length of time that a
pharmacist may refill a prescription from the current 14 days to 30 days. It further allows
prescriptions to be filled if another state has declared a state of emergency, while current law only
applies when Maryland has declared a state of emergency.

MedChi supports this legislation because it ensures access to health care, and because it has
certain protections against abuse. For example, the pharmacist must first attempt to gain
authorization from the prescriber, the refill may not be for a controlled dangerous substance, and the
pharmacist must notify the prescriber within 7 days of filling the prescription.

Accordingly, MedChi supports House Bill 591.

For more information call:
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