



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT ON REDUCTIONS IN MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENTS

BALTIMORE, January 7, 2014 — On behalf of the physician community of Maryland, Dr. Tyler Cymet, President of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, would like to express MedChi's disappointment with Governor O'Malley's decision to include a reduction in reimbursement to physicians who serve the Medicaid population in the mid-year budget reductions that were approved by the Board of Public Works today. While MedChi understands the fiscal constraints the State is facing, reducing Medicaid reimbursement will ultimately prove to create larger fiscal challenges. Medicaid reimbursement rates were set to encourage physicians to serve Medicaid patients in anticipation of the enrollment expansion that has occurred as a result of health care reform. That effort has proven successful with notable increase in physician participation. If reimbursement rates begin to decline to original levels, the State will find itself unable to provide necessary access to care to the Medicaid population. The point that should be made is that physicians figured out what it would cost to provide a service, agreed to provide that service, and are then told that they will not be paid what they were told. That is the unfairness, and what makes planning difficult and often wrong.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.