



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

**News: For Immediate Release**

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**MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY, APPLAUDS GOVERNOR O'MALLEY SIGNATURE OF TELEMEDICINE LEGISLATION**

ANNAPOLIS, May 22, 2012 – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law House Bill 1149 (Health Insurance – Coverage for Telemedicine), Senate Bill 781 (Health Insurance – Coverage for Telemedicine) and Senate Bill 817 (Health Insurance – Reimbursement for Covered Services Rendered by Telemedicine). MedChi expressed strong support for the measure during the 2012 session. Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO, explained “as we continue to move Maryland forward as a leader in health technology it is only appropriate that electronic medicine services be paid for by insurance carriers, just as they now reimburse face to face encounters.”

The legislation is the result of work done by the Maryland Telemedicine Task Force. Neal Reynolds, M.D., the MedChi Representative on the task force explained “Maryland will now be the 13<sup>th</sup> state in the Union to have such legislation mandating parity of payment for physician services. Now Maryland physicians will have the incentive to make investments in equipment and time to provide more time-critical care to anywhere in the state of Maryland. This is all about reducing disparities of health care, improving access to care with the goal to deliver better care to Marylanders. While there is more to do, this is a huge step forward.”

MedChi would again like to thank the sponsors and co-sponsors of this legislation for all of their support on this important matter.

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](http://www.medchi.org).