



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

**News: For Immediate Release**

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## **MARYLAND PHYSICIANS CONTINUE FIGHT AGAINST TOBACCO**

BALTIMORE, April 9, 2014 – MedChi cosigned a letter with other healthcare organizations to every candidate for the Maryland General Assembly urging them to endorse a dollar per pack increase in the state tobacco tax to reduce teen smoking and fund critical health care and public health needs. MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society and other organizations have planned a grassroots campaign which will mobilize Marylanders across the state to urge candidates to endorse the Healthy Maryland Initiative Candidate Resolution.

MedChi CEO Gene Ransom explained “MedChi has always been a strong supporter for increasing the tobacco tax and believes an additional tobacco tax increase will likely generate benefits similar to the last increase, decreasing tobacco caused illness and death in young people and adults resulting in improved health and substantial health care cost savings for The State of Maryland.” Ransom went on to explain “The new revenues can be used to ensure that Medicaid is properly funded as well as other critical health care programs and public health needs.”

### 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).