

# MedChi

---

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Nick Charles

FROM: J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: March 10, 2020

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 1112 – *Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact*

---

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **opposes** House Bill 1112.

House Bill 1112 enters Maryland into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. Like other Compacts, this would allow audiologists and speech-language pathologists to become licensed in a “home state” that is a member of the Compact, but to also practice in other “member states”. As was done with the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, there are issues that need to be examined closely to ensure that Maryland is not permitting members of these health professions to enter practice in Maryland without adequate safeguards and protections for patients. The State should be certain that the Compact Commission cannot alter the scope of practice as it stands in Maryland, which would in effect cede the State’s control over scope of practice to an out of state entity.

Similarly, the General Assembly appears poised to adopt telehealth legislation that allows asynchronous communication between providers and patients. While that legislation makes clear that the provider is subject to the “appropriate standard of care” as determined by the governing board in this State, the Compact, on the other hand, mandates that a Compact provider may “practice audiology or speech-language pathology in any member state via telehealth under a privilege to practice as provided in the Compact and rules promulgated by the Commission.” These apparent conflicts need to be considered thoroughly before the Compact is adopted.

Finally, MedChi believes that the Commission should have a physician presence under Section 8.B(2) of the Compact.

For these reasons, MedChi opposes House Bill 1112.

**For more information call:**

J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Richard A. Tabuteau  
410-244-7000