

# MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 9, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1082 – *Public Health – Consumer Health Information – Hub and Requirements*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 1082.

House Bill 1082 recognizes the importance of health literacy and proposes to designate the University of Maryland Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy as the State's Consumer Health Information Hub. The University of Maryland School of Public Health is unique among public health schools in having a dedicated center to promote health literacy. The purpose of the Hub is to promote and ensure public access to accurate, consistent, evidence-based, multi-lingual plain language information and to assist all Marylanders in making informed decisions about health, safety, and social services benefits. The Hub will facilitate the consistent use of plain language and health literacy frameworks by state and local government agencies. The Hub will also establish grant and procurement requirements related to health literacy.

Enhancing health literacy for all Marylanders will strengthen the State's public health and health systems infrastructure. It will also serve to advance the objective of addressing health equity, especially in medically underserved and economically challenged communities, by enhancing the ability of individuals in those communities to navigate the health care, public safety, and social services systems. MedChi urges a favorable report.

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