

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Nick Charles

FROM: Christine K. Krone  
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DATE: March 12, 2024

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 1016 – *Health Occupations – Prescriptions for Children  
Subject to Joint Custody*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) **oppose** Senate Bill 1016.

Senate Bill 1016 would mandate that if a minor patient is subject to a court order of joint legal custody with the right of medical decision making, a health care provider must double the amount of any drug the provider prescribes for the minor. MedChi and MDAAP have significant concerns about the bill and believe it creates many unintended consequences. First, concerning opioids and other controlled substances; the bill puts even more drugs in circulation unnecessarily. Second, insurers are not going to authorize a double prescription for the same patient. It puts the provider in a very uncomfortable position between the patient and the insurance company, where the patient is going to demand that the provider fill the prescription under the authorization of the bill. Finally, should someone overdose, there is nothing in the bill that addresses disciplinary action against the provider for dispensing more drugs than what are proper under the standard of care. As an alternative to the bill, our physicians routinely write out instructions for the pharmacist on dividing one prescription into two labeled bottles. For these reasons, MedChi and MDAAP urge an unfavorable report.