MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair

Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee

The Honorable Robbyn Lewis

FROM: J. Steven Wise

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DATE: February 20, 2024

RE: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT – House Bill 757 – State Board of Physicians –

Supervised Medical Graduates and Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists (Bridge to Medical

Residency Act)

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports with amendment House Bill 757.

This legislation will permit a medical school graduate that has completed their medical education but has not matched for a medical residency the opportunity to continue their training under the supervision of a licensed physician while they wait to match for a residency. A medical residency is a period of intense training that all medical school graduates must undergo in order to become a licensed physician, and it is one of the most important distinctions between physicians and every other health occupation.

House Bill 757 does not excuse the requirement of completing a medical residency. Students who serve as a supervised medical graduate would still have to complete a residency, but this legislation provides them with the opportunity to care for patients while they await that portion of the training.

As this status as a supervised medical graduate is not intended to be permanent but only temporary, MedChi asks that an amendment be included to limit the time that a student may serve in this capacity to 2-3 years. If the person has not placed for a residency within that time frame, which would be extremely rare, then they should adjust their career plans accordingly.

With this amendment, MedChi supports House Bill 757.