

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 Luke Clippinger, Chair
The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable David Moon

FROM: Gene Ransom, CEO

DATE: March 6, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1400 – *Cannabis – Legalization, Taxation, and Regulation*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 1400 as it relates to the taxation of medical cannabis.

To be clear, MedChi does not take a position on the legalization of or recreational use of cannabis. However, MedChi has adopted a policy stating that *medical* cannabis should not be taxed, which is the current State law. House Bill 1400 will allow local jurisdictions to impose a sales tax of up to 3% on recreational cannabis use, but prohibits local governments from imposing sales taxes on medical cannabis: “A COUNTY, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT, OR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE MAY NOT IMPOSE A SALES TAX ON SALES OF MEDICAL CANNABIS UNDER TITLE 23 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.” See p. 75.

MedChi supports this aspect of House Bill 1400 but takes no position on the overall issue of the legalization of cannabis.