

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee

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

DATE: January 26, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 253 – *Maryland Health Care Commission – User Fee Assessments*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendment** Senate Bill 253.

This bill increases the limit on the amount of user fees that the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) can generate annually. Currently the limit is \$16 million dollars, with approximately 16% (or \$2.5 million) of that amount coming from health care providers. Senate Bill 253 would increase the limit by 25% to \$20 million.

The MHCC performs some valuable functions, including researching and studying important health care matters. Current subject matter includes Advanced Directives and the Telehealth Study mandated last year by the General Assembly. It also engages in ongoing reviews of Certificate of Need applications and updating the State's Health Plan.

However, most of the projects of the MHCC do not benefit solely those who pay the user fees. Rather, they benefit the consumer of healthcare as much as facilities and providers. Accordingly, MedChi believes that the increase sought, if warranted, should come from the General Fund rather than user fees. The existing cap on fees assessed to "users" should be held firm, and the additional funds sought by MHCC should be derived from the General Fund.

For these reasons, MedChi supports Senate Bill 253 with amendment.

AMENDMENT:

On page 2 at line 21, delete the brackets and delete "\$20,000,000."

For more information call:

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