

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Sheila Ruth

FROM: Christine K. Krone
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DATE: February 2, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 9 – *Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 9. The bill would require equity to be considered when State transportation plans, reports, and goals are developed. Additionally, it requires the Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the Maryland Transit Administration, to conduct analyses and consult with communities before announcing or proposing service changes, while also taking actions to avoid or minimize disparate impacts or disproportionate burdens. House Bill 9 also creates a Commission on Transportation Equity.

MedChi recognizes transportation barriers are an important barrier to healthcare access as 5.8 million persons in the United States (1.8%)¹ delayed medical care because they did not have transportation, particularly those with lower incomes or the under/uninsured². A more equitable transportation system would have a positive impact on the overall health of Marylanders; less emissions would improve air quality; public transit promotes physical activity like walking and biking; and fosters reduced motor vehicle crashes and reduced air pollution. For these reasons MedChi requests a favorable vote on House Bill 9.

¹ Syed, Samina T., Ben S. Gerber, and Lisa K. Sharp. "Traveling towards Disease: Transportation Barriers to Health Care Access." 44 *Journal of Community Health* 38, no. 5 (2013): 976–93. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-013-9681-1>.

² Wolfe, Mary K., Noreen C. McDonald, and G. Mark Holmes. "Transportation Barriers to Health Care in the United States: Findings from the National Health Interview Survey, 1997–2017." *American Journal of Public Health* 110, no. 6 (2020): 815–22. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2020.305579>.