

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Andrew G. Vetter  
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DATE: February 14, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 526 – *Health Insurance – Pharmacy Benefits Managers – Specialty Drugs Dispensed by a Physician*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 526. Senate Bill 526 prohibits a pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) that provides pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of a carrier from requiring a beneficiary to use a specific pharmacy or entity for certain specialty drugs. This prohibition applies if the drug is (1) dispensed by a physician; (2) used in the treatment of a chronic, complex, rare, or life-threatening medical condition; and (3) injected or infused (or an oral drug that meets specified conditions).

For patients with chronic and/or life-threatening conditions, timely access to treatment is critical to avoid medical complications. Patients who are required by a PBM to use a specific pharmacy or other entity often report delays in prescription delivery which, in turn, results in treatment delays. Through years of training and experience in their chosen specialty, physicians are well-informed on the medications that they prescribe to their patients and can advise their patients accordingly. Therefore, MedChi urges a favorable vote on Senate Bill 526 to provide patients with the flexibility to obtain their medications at the venue that they believe will provide them with better care and quality outcomes, which will ultimately benefit the health care system at-large.

**For more information call:**

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