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Senate Finance Committee

February 18, 2025

Senate Bill 592 – *Public Health – Health Care Quality Fund for Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs – Establishment*

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports Senate Bill 592, which establishes the Health Care Quality Fund for Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs within the Maryland Department of Health.

This legislation takes an important step toward strengthening behavioral health services by ensuring that civil penalties collected from behavioral health programs are reinvested directly into initiatives that improve the quality of care. By funding training, grants, and demonstration projects, this bill will help enhance services for patients while supporting providers who deliver critical mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

Additionally, Senate Bill 592 guarantees that these funds supplement rather than replace existing funding, reinforcing Maryland’s long-term commitment to accessible, high-quality behavioral health care. For these reasons, MedChi urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 592.

**For more information call:**

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