

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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

FROM: Gene Ransom, CEO

DATE: March 5, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** – Senate Bill 728 – *Health Facilities – Freestanding Ambulatory Care Facilities – Administration of Anesthesia*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendments** Senate Bill 728.

Senate Bill 728 requires that regulations be adopted to ensure that safeguards are in place in ambulatory surgery centers to make sure that proper levels of anesthesia are available for the procedures being performed.

MedChi supports efforts to protect patient safety in ambulatory surgery centers, including making sure proper levels of anesthesia are available to safely perform procedures. With the advent of the Total Cost of Care Model, more procedures are being performed in ambulatory surgery centers. The operating rooms in these centers are now more heavily utilized, and this has also increased the volume of cases being managed in procedure rooms, which are not designed for the same level of procedures as an operating room.

MedChi has worked in recent days with the Maryland Society of Anesthesiologists, the Maryland Health Care Commission and others on amendments. These amendments have been agreed to within the last day, and MedChi is pleased that all parties have come together to help resolve this important issue. We look forward to participating as a stakeholder in the development of regulations on this subject.