

# MedChi

---

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

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

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

DATE: March 16, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 859 – *Public Health – Sickle Cell Disease Registry – Establishment*

---

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendment** Senate Bill 859.

Senate Bill 859 establishes a registry of individuals diagnosed with sickle cell disease (SCD). The registry would serve as a single repository of information to aid in identifying and addressing access to care challenges related to the treatment of SCD in areas of the State with high populations of individuals with SCD. Health care practitioners who serve individuals with SCD would be required to provide information to the registry with protections to preserve the confidentiality of the information provided.

MedChi recognizes the ongoing challenges in addressing the health care needs of individuals with sickle cell disease, including access to care in areas where there is a shortage of practitioners who provide the specific health care services required. To enhance the registry's effectiveness in attaining its objectives, MedChi would recommend the bill be amended to include a provision that the registry be integrated with CRISP, Maryland's designated Health Information Exchange. Integrating the registry with CRISP would provide a means to share health information among doctors' offices, hospitals, laboratories, radiology centers, and other health care practitioners and organizations. With its amendment noted, MedChi supports passage of Senate Bill 859.

**For more information call:**

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000