

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Pam Queen

FROM: Christine K. Krone
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
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Andrew G. Vetter

DATE: February 28, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 965 – *Maryland Department of Health – Breast Cancer Program – Eligibility and Public Awareness Campaign*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 965, which amends the eligibility requirements for the Breast Cancer Program in Maryland and introduces a public awareness campaign for the program.

The bill proposes an expansion of the eligibility requirements for screening mammograms and clinical breast examinations provided by Maryland’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (BCCP) to include women under the age of 45 who are considered high risk for breast cancer diagnosis to qualify for the program. Since 1992, BCCP has provided more than 282,135 mammograms and has diagnosed 2,195 breast cancers to eligible women in Maryland. Screening programs, such as BCCP have been shown to reduce mortality from breast cancer by enabling early detection and better treatment options leading to better outcomes. MedChi is supportive of this expansion of access to care. The bill also mandates the Maryland Department of Health to develop and implement a public awareness campaign to encourage eligible individuals to participate in the program. MedChi supports House Bill 965.

For more information call:

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