

MedChi Focused on Protecting Tort Reform

The Maryland General Assembly is again considering measures to weaken important legal protections. This is at a time when Maryland's health care environment is in a precarious state. At MedChi, we are focused on combatting all efforts that would undermine a fair and balanced legal system.

One effort that we are particularly focused on is House Bill 113 and Senate Bill 584. These bills would repeal the noneconomic damages cap for non-health care claims. Although the current drafts of these bills do not apply to medical malpractice claims, the bills would set a dangerous precedent.

A precedent that will almost inevitably lead to efforts by the plaintiffs' bar to seek a similar repeal of the medical malpractice caps, either through legislation or the court system.

We are all keenly aware that high noneconomic damages awards—damages for pain and suffering—will lead to skyrocketing medical professional liability insurance rates. When rates are too high, physicians may be forced to limit services, move out of state, or retire. The loss of physicians and health care services when Maryland is already experiencing a workforce shortage poses a serious threat to public health, safety, and access to proper patient care.

MedChi will continue to fight these bills and any other efforts to weaken Maryland's tort environment. We need your voice. Please contact your legislators and ask them to oppose House Bill 113 and Senate Bill 584 and any other measures that would repeal or increase the cap on noneconomic damages. We made it easy for you.

Click [here](#) to learn how you can let your legislators know how important Maryland tort protections are to the practice of medicine.

Gene Ransom III
MedChi CEO



MedChi's Dr. Erinn Maury with the
46th district delegation

Voter Voice Alert

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the importance of
tort reform advocacy
and learn how you
can make an impact.

MedChi
The Maryland State Medical Society