



Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Position

**SB 196
OPPOSE**

**Finance
Committee
2/18/09**

SB 196

Pharmaceutical Manufacturers – Disclosure of Payments to Physicians

Bill Summary: This bill would require a drug manufacturer to report to the Maryland Health Care Commission all payments made to physicians in the state for speeches, consulting or conducting research.

Chamber Position: The Maryland Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill because it will cost our state jobs and damage our reputation as a place to do business. Similar legislation has a proven track record as a job killer in other states. Massachusetts has lost millions of dollars in cancelled conventions by medical groups. New York has aggressively promoted an advertising campaign to attract biotech firms frustrated with Massachusetts' disclosure law. Enactment of this bill would counter the millions of state dollars that Maryland invests annually to attract biotech research and clinical trials to our state.

The fiscal note also observes that the Maryland Health Care Commission cannot absorb the cost of administering this legislation within its existing resources. That will mean that the Commission would have to increase its assessment on hospital services to fund the cost of this bill.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber urges that this bill be given an unfavorable report.

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