



**JAMES L. MADARA, MD**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

ama-assn.org  
t (312) 464-5000

April 28, 2014

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Governor  
Office of the Governor  
State of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: American Medical Association Support for House Bill 1088: Compound Drugs – Provisions to Ophthalmologists for Office Use

Dear Governor O'Malley:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and physician and medical student members, I am writing in strong support of House Bill (H.B.) 1088: Compound Drugs – Provisions to Ophthalmologists for Office Use. The AMA urges you to sign this legislation to ensure that patients who require emergency treatment of sight-threatening eye diseases will have access to the treatment they need.

Currently, Maryland law prohibits ophthalmologists from obtaining certain compound drugs for “office use,” meaning prior to a patient specific prescription. For most patients, this does not present a problem because the drug has been obtained in anticipation of a planned office visit with a known patient. Yet, for patients with conditions such as bacterial endophthalmitis, viral retinitis, neovascular glaucoma, wet macular degeneration, or macular edema, emergency treatment sometimes is necessary to protect the patient’s vision. If a patient who requires such emergency treatment does not receive it, the patient may lose his or her sight or even the eye itself.

This bill makes it possible for ophthalmologists to have necessary compound medications in their office in the event that they need to immediately administer the compound medications to patients in an emergency. We urge you to sign H.B. 1088 into law. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at [daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org](mailto:daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-4954.

Thank you for your efforts on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD

cc: MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society  
Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons