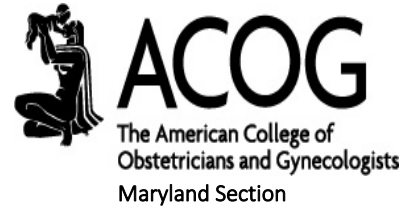




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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Alfred C. Carr, Jr.

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

DATE: February 4, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 299 – *State Board of Physicians – Genetic Counselors - Licensing*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (MDACOG), we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 299.

This legislation requires a license to practice as a genetic counselor in Maryland, outlines the scope of practice for a genetic counselor, and provides the basis for discipline for a genetic counselor, among other things. MedChi and MDACOG believe that genetic counselors can provide valuable information to patients, and therefore supports this legislation.

House Bill 299 was introduced during the 2020 Session as Senate Bill 763 and passed the full Senate but did not pass the House. MedChi and ACOG asked for amendments last year which were adopted by this Committee, and these are reflected in this year's bill. These included: 1) Ensuring that a genetic counselor cannot diagnose or treat an illness, disease, or condition; and 2) Requiring that the genetic counselor refer a patient to a licensed physician or other appropriate practitioner if the counselor determines that the patient requires a diagnosis or treatment.

Because the amendments from 2020 are reflected in House Bill 299, MedChi and MDACOG support this legislation.

**For more information call:**

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