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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
 Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
 The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly

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

DATE: March 1, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1283 – *Health Insurance – Prescription Contraceptives – Coverage for Single Dispensing*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1283.

Contraception is an effective tool for individuals who want to plan the timing of pregnancies or prevent pregnancies. It has been clearly demonstrated that effective family planning leads to well established benefits for women, babies, families, and communities. Family planning is not only associated with improved health outcomes but also with improved social and economic outcomes such as educational advancement, workforce participation, increased income, and family stability.

House Bill 1283 will enhance access to coverage for contraception in State regulated insurance plans. It will ensure that Marylanders have access to the contraception method that works best for them by requiring health insurers to cover up to 12 months of contraception. Studies show that increasing dispensing limits on contraceptives to a 12-month supply can help avert costly unintended pregnancies. Passage of this bill will improve the effectiveness of family planning services by providing the full array of contraception options for a longer period. We urge a favorable report for House Bill 1283.

For more information call:

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