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THE AMERICAN CONGRESS OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS

TO: The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Joanne C. Benson

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

DATE: February 28, 2018

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 774 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Family Planning Services*

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 Senate Bill 774.

Senate Bill 774 requires the Maryland Department of Health to apply for a State Plan Amendment to expand the Medicaid Family Planning Waiver Program to both men and women, regardless of age with incomes at or below 250% of poverty and to enable enrollment through a presumptive eligibility process. It also requires that Medicaid cover a single dispensing of a 12-month supply of a contraceptive.

Increasing access to family planning services provides not only critical access to important services for low income individuals but is also a wise expenditure of State funds. Family planning services under the proposed waiver would receive a 90% federal match in federal funding. Therefore, the impact on State revenues is minimal despite a substantial increase in coverage of services that are proven to not only improve outcomes but also save costs.

Passage of Senate Bill 774 will ensure that more women have access to a consistent supply of contraception; will help to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies; and will improve birth outcomes as a result of enhanced access to prenatal services. Expanding family planning services to also include men provides the State and covered individuals with a more comprehensive approach to family planning and expanded options for achieving the program's objectives. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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