



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Anne Healey, Chair  
Members, House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee  
The Honorable Karen Lewis Young

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

DATE: March 5, 2018

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Joint Resolution 10 – *Decreasing Surgical Births*

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We submit this letter on behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (MDACOG), in **opposition** of House Joint Resolution 10.

House Joint Resolution 10 raises the issue of the importance of decreasing the number surgical births, commonly called caesarean sections (C-sections). While well-intended, House Joint Resolution 10 fails to recognize that Maryland is actually a national leader in the effort to reduce the rate of both elective and first time caesarean sections.

The Maryland Patient Safety Center, recognized as a national leader, was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 2003. It was designated as a Patient Safety Organization by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in 2005. It is a nonprofit organization whose sole purpose is to make health care in Maryland the safest in the nation. Its stated mission is to be a center of patient safety innovation, convening providers of care to accelerate the understanding of, and implement evidence-based solutions for, preventing avoidable harm.

The Center's Perinatal Neonatal Quality Collaborative has focused a broad range of initiatives designed to improve safe and reliable delivery care and reduce preventable adverse outcomes. Since 2009, the Maryland Patient Safety Center has worked with the Department of Health, the Maryland Hospital Association and Maryland hospitals to reduce early elective caesarean sections or inductions without medical reasons. In 2015, as a result of their efforts, they were notified by the March of Dimes that the state was the first in the country to have 100 percent of its birthing hospitals achieve recognition for their work to reduce the rate of early elective deliveries to less than five percent for six consecutive months. (See attached release)

Currently, the Patient Safety Center is partnering with the Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health, a national leader in promoting safe practices, to implement "Reducing Primary Cesarean Sections: Supporting Intended Vaginal Births". The stated goal of this Collaborative is to reduce first time caesarean sections. The very issue raised in House Joint Resolution 10 that would lead one to believe Maryland is not already addressing these issues.

MedChi and MDACOG strongly believe that House Joint Resolution 10 provides a well-intended but misleading picture of Maryland's nationally recognized leadership on safe birth practices. We would strongly urge an unfavorable report.

**For more information call:**

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