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TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 26, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 763 – *State Board of Physicians – Genetic Counselors – Licensing*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (MDACOG), we submit this letter of **support with amendment** for Senate Bill 763.

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 believes that genetic counselors are an important part of the medical team and can provide valuable information to patients, and therefore supports this legislation.

The amendments that MedChi and MDACOG sought have largely been agreed to by the sponsor. These address the following concerns: 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. MedChi further believes that the language on page 4 referring to diagnostic studies should also be clarified to ensure that these relate to the genetic assessment itself, and not diagnostic studies generally.

With these amendments, MedChi and MDACOG support Senate Bill 763.

For more information call:

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