



Maryland Section

Senate Finance Committee

March 4, 2026

Senate Bill 551 – *Health Insurance – Ovarian Cancer Prevention With Salpingectomy – Required Coverage and Prohibited Cost Sharing*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MD ACOG), which represents the Maryland physicians who serve the obstetrical and gynecological needs of Maryland women and their families, **supports** Senate Bill 551. Senate Bill 551 would require commercial insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for salpingectomy when performed for ovarian cancer prevention.

Ovarian cancer is the deadliest gynecologic malignancy. According to the National Cancer Institute, in Maryland, approximately 270 women are diagnosed each year, and nearly 69% are diagnosed at an advanced stage, when survival rates are low and treatment is more intensive. Nationally, most high-ovarian cancers are now understood to originate in the fallopian tubes, making preventive salpingectomy, or removal of the fallopian tubes, a safe, effective, and evidence-based strategy to reduce cancer risk.

Patients who have completed childbearing should consider opportunistic salpingectomy at the time of pelvic surgery or as an alternative to tubal ligation (“having your tubes tied”). This approach provides both cancer risk reduction and permanent contraception, and it is far less invasive than removing the ovaries. Research shows that, when performed appropriately, salpingectomy does not increase surgical complications and does not impair ovarian function. By expanding access to preventive salpingectomy, Senate Bill 551 aligns with clinical guidance and supports patient-centered, evidence-based care.

Financial barriers should not prevent women from accessing a potentially life-saving procedure. Requiring coverage ensures that patients can make informed decisions with their clinicians without the burden of copays, deductibles, or other cost-sharing barriers.

Senate Bill 551 is a proactive, cost-effective public health measure. By preventing ovarian cancer before it develops, Maryland can save lives, reduce suffering, and lower the long-term costs of treating advanced cancer. Every year this coverage is delayed, more women face a preventable risk.

For these reasons, MD ACOG strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 551 to improve access to preventive care and protect the health of Maryland women.

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