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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees
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The Maryland House of Delegates
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Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1040
State Board of Physicians - Genetic Counselors - Licensing
Before the Health and Government Operations Committee
March 6, 2020

Currently there is no pathway for genetic counseling licensure in Maryland. There are no written professional standards for genetic counselors or a disciplinary pathway for practitioners who fail to uphold the ethical code of the profession.

HB 1040 provides a pathway to licensure for genetic counselors in Maryland. Specifically, HB 1040 establishes a Genetic Counseling Advisory Committee under the State Board of Physicians, which is tasked with:

- Creating genetic counseling licensure regulations;
- Instituting fees and renewal requirements for genetic counselors; and
- Establishes penalties for noncompliance with licensure requirements

Twenty-Six states currently safeguard their patients by licensing genetic counselors through the state's Board of Physicians or equivalent body.

I ask for your favorable report.