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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Alfred C. Carr, Jr.  
The Honorable Steven J. Arentz

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

DATE: March 6, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1040 – *State Board of Physicians – Genetic Counselors – Licensing*

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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 House Bill 1040.

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 House Bill 1040.

**For more information call:**

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