

MDCSCO

MARYLAND/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chair
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **SUPPORT:** *Senate Bill 34: State Board of Physicians - Genetic Counselors -Licensing*

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology (MDCSCO), we support Senate Bill 34. Senate Bill 34 would require individuals that undertake the “practice of genetic counseling” to be licensed under the Maryland Board of Physicians. As the President of MDCSCO, I am committed, along with our members, to furthering our mission, which is:

1. To improve the quality and delivery of care in medical oncology in the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia.
2. To promote appropriate standards of care in oncology.
3. To cooperate with investigators conducting cancer research.
4. To assist in the continuing education of oncologists.
5. To educate the public, the government, insurance carriers, and other health care providers about appropriate prevention of cancer and current therapeutic options for patients with cancer.

We believe that Senate Bill 34 aligns with this mission and we request your support for this bill. Genetic testing has become an integral part of cancer risk assessment and management. Given that as much as 10% of all cancers are hereditary, the earlier identification of individuals before a diagnosis of cancer allows for optimal surveillance and early detection and prevention of cancer. Counseling involves evaluating a detailed family history, educating the patient about inheritance, and providing general information on cancer genetics. Appropriate training ensures that individuals will have the necessary knowledge in cancer genetics, screening, and preventive oncology.

I thank you in advance for your time and I look forward to working with you during the 2021 Session.

Sincerely,



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