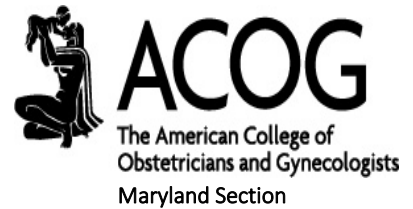




The Maryland State Medical Society  
1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915  
1.800.492.1056  
www.medchi.org



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  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: January 26, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 34 – *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** for Senate Bill 34.

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 and MDACOG believe that genetic counselors can provide valuable information to patients, and therefore supports this legislation.

Senate Bill 34 was introduced during the 2020 Session as Senate Bill 763 and passed the full Senate but did not pass the House. MedChi and ACOG asked for amendments last year which were adopted by this Committee, and these are reflected in this year's bill. These included: 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.

Because the amendments from 2020 are reflected in Senate Bill 34, MedChi and MDACOG support this legislation.

**For more information call:**

J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman  
410-244-7000