

# MDCSCO

MARYLAND/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **SUPPORT:** *House Bill 299: State Board of Physicians - Genetic Counselors -Licensing*

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology (MDCSCO), we support House Bill 299. House Bill 299 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 House Bill 299 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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