

## **SUPPORT for HB 299, State Board of Physicians - Genetic Counselors - Licensing**

Currently, there is no licensure pathway for genetic counselors in the state of Maryland. Maryland has not established professional standards for genetic counselors practicing in the state or a disciplinary infrastructure for practitioners that fail to uphold. House Bill 299 will address this issue the ethical standards of the profession

This legislation will provide licensure for genetic counselors. It establishes a Genetic Counseling Advisory Committee under the State Board of Physicians which will be tasked with:

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

Twenty-six states currently license genetic counselors, the majority of whom house these licensing bodies in their respective state board of physicians. Genetic counselors require a master's degree, board certification, and continuing education requirements. Stakeholders and the Maryland Board of Physicians have made significant efforts to collaborate in the production of this bill, which passed unanimously in the Senate during the previous session.

I ask for a favorable report.