

MedChi

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 Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Marlon Amprey

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Christine K. Krone

DATE: January 27, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 142 – *Health Insurance – Coverage of In Vitro Fertilization – Revisions*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 142, which, among other provisions, expands the expenses that a carrier must cover arising from in vitro fertilization. The bill also states that the benefits provided under the current law must be covered if an appropriate health care provider determines that:

1. infertility of the patient is imminent;
2. the patient and the patient's spouse have been identified as genetic carriers and at risk for fetal anomaly through natural conception;
3. delaying in vitro fertilization is detrimental to the patient's mental health; or
4. delaying in vitro fertilization is otherwise not in the best interest of the patient.

MedChi's support is grounded on the belief that for an insurance benefit to truly be a benefit it must cover all essential items. While MedChi recognizes that Maryland's in vitro fertilization law provides good coverage, there are key items that are not covered, such as medications, often a key component in the process. In addition, MedChi believes that it is equally important to recognize the sensitivity of in vitro fertilization and the need to ensure that the independent determination by a health care provider is taken into consideration when certain conditions are present (as articulated in the bill).

Therefore, with the addition of these two revisions, MedChi believes that the intent of the law will be strengthened to ensure that patients have access to in vitro fertilization. We urge a favorable report.

For more information call:

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