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MARYLAND/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Brian J. Feldman

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

DATE: March 23, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 144 – *Health – Authorization to Prescribe and Administer Amygdalin – Repeal*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology (MDCSCO), we submit this letter of **support** on Senate Bill 144. Senate Bill 144 repeals outdated provisions in law from 1982 governing the prescription, administration, and regulation of Amygdalin (also called Laetrile®) to treat cancer.

Amygdalin is an extract derived from apricot pits and other plants. It can be broken down by enzymes in the intestine to produce cyanide, a known poison. It was first used in Europe and later in the United States as an alternative cancer therapy. However, the Food and Drug Administration has banned the sale and use of amygdalin (Laetrile®) due to the risk of cyanide poisoning and studies have demonstrated that there is no clinical benefit from the use of Amygdalin in the treatment of human cancer. Therefore, we urge the Committee to repeal this outdated provision and vote favorable on Senate Bill 144.

**For more information call:**

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