

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
The Honorable Mary Beth Carozza

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

DATE: February 9, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 336 – *Family Law – Custody Evaluators – Qualifications and Training*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **opposes** Senate Bill 336.

Senate Bill 336 would set requirements beyond those already provided in current law as to who may serve as a court-appointed custody evaluator. The Maryland Rules provide qualifications for a person to serve as a custody evaluator, including having basic mediation training (Rule 17-205(a)) as well as specific training related to family matters, custody, visitation, child support, and other matters (Rule 9-205). More still, they must be licensed mental health providers and comply with the requirements of their field, including continuing education.

MedChi is concerned that these additional requirements would limit the pool of available candidates to serve as custody evaluators and exclude some professionals unnecessarily. This will work an even greater hardship in those parts of the State where mental health providers are already scarce.

For these reasons, MedChi opposes Senate Bill 336.

**For more information call:**

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