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February 24, 2023

Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland General Assembly
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Del. Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair, Del. Bonnie Cullison, Vice-Chair, and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (“AAAA”) we are writing to state our support for HB0482, but only with amendments. The title of the bill is Health-Donor-Conceived Individuals and Gamete Agencies, Gamete Banks, and Fertility Centers

AAAA is a credentialed, nonprofit organization of attorneys, judges and law professors throughout the United States, Canada and abroad, all of whom are distinguished in the legal fields of adoption and assisted reproductive technology. We support and advocate for the rights of families and to insure appropriate consideration of all parties’ interests, including children, in assisted reproductive technology matters. Our Fellows are committed to the ethical practice of adoption and assisted reproductive technology law

We support the core principles of the Bill, to facilitate the provision of medical information to donor-conceived persons, and, with the donor’s consent, to allow for release of a donor’s identity directly to the donor-conceived person. The Bill in its unamended form goes well beyond those fundamental principles. It creates an overly broad and burdensome, likely unworkable implementation model. We are concerned that the Bill as written does not appropriately balance donor conceived persons’ access to information with donors’ privacy interests. We believe that the goals of the proposed legislation would be best served by amending the bill so that it focuses narrowly on the core principles as stated above, does not unintentionally impede access to care and so that it is consistent with Article 9 of the Uniform Parentage Act of 2017.

We respectfully urge you to support the Bill’s amendment process. Thank you so much for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact us for any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jenny Womack, AAAA President

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Nidhi Desai, AAAA Director of ART

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