



Maryland Section

TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Emily Shetty

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 24, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT ONLY IF AMENDED** – House Bill 482 – *Health – Donor-Conceived Individuals and Gamete Agencies, Gamete Banks, and Fertility Clinics*

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MDACOG), which represents the Maryland physicians who serve the obstetrical and gynecological needs of Maryland women and their families, **supports only if amended** House Bill 482.

House Bill 482 is a complex bill intended with the notable objective of facilitating the provision of medical information to a donor conceived individual, and with the donor's consent, to allow for the release of a donor's identity to the donor conceived person. While MDACOG appreciates the intent of the bill, as drafted, it goes beyond those objectives and reflects a complexity that would essentially be impossible to implement. Furthermore, the bill, as drafted, creates a number of potential unintended consequences and would likely only increase barriers to accessing infertility technology that affect marginalized populations, such as the LGBTQ community, thereby interfering with reproductive autonomy.

MDACOG wishes to credit the bill sponsor with her willingness to work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to craft amendments that will achieve the objectives of the legislation but also provide consistency with Article 9 of the Uniform Parentage Act of 2017 (UPA), which reflects best practices and is consistent with actions taken by other States addressing this issue. Article 9 of the UPA ensures that adults born from gamete provision, and their parents or guardians in their minority, are able to access non-identifiable medical information about their gamete provider. Article 9 has already been passed in California, Washington State, Rhode Island, and Connecticut and provides a helpful roadmap for Maryland.

MDACOG supports a favorable report on House Bill 482 but only if the stakeholders are able to come to a consensus on the noted amendment.