

MDCSCO

MARYLAND/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Pam Queen

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

DATE: February 28, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 965 – *Maryland Department of Health – Breast Cancer Program*
– *Eligibility and Public Awareness Campaign*

On behalf of the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology (MDCSCO), we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 965. This bill expands eligibility for the Breast Cancer Program (underinsured and uninsured) to high-risk individuals who are under the age of 45 years and requires the Maryland Department of Health to conduct an awareness campaign for the Program.

MDCSCO supports all efforts to increase screenings. The Breast Cancer Program provides much needed screenings for women who do not have insurance or who are underinsured. Along that same reasoning, many women who are at high-risk for breast cancer may have insurance but are not covered by screening guidelines due to age. Because of this, too often, women then delay care until the cancer has spread to other parts of the body or has significantly worsened, decreasing the survival rate, and resulting in increased health care costs. In addition, a screening program is only effective if individuals know about it and know how to utilize it. House Bill 965 addresses both issues. MDCSCO urges a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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