



House Judiciary Committee
March 10, 2026
House Bill 1389 – *Public Health – Female Genital Mutilation*
POSITION: SUPPORT

On behalf of the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (MD ACOG) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1389. The bill would expand the statutory definition of child “abuse” to include female genital mutilation (FGM), strengthen prohibitions against engaging in the practice, increase related penalties, and require the development of educational materials on FGM.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) strongly support efforts to protect children and women from harmful practices that pose serious physical and psychological risks. FGM is internationally recognized as a violation of human rights and a form of abuse with lifelong health consequences. ACOG’s policy unequivocally condemns all forms of medically unnecessary surgical modification of the female genitalia and supports education, awareness, and efforts to eliminate FGM both in the United States and globally [Female Genital Mutilation | ACOG](#).

Similarly, the AAP emphasizes the importance of early recognition, appropriate management, and comprehensive care for children affected by FGM or at risk for the practice [Diagnosis, Management, and Treatment of Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting in Girls | Pediatrics | American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

By clarifying legal protections, enhancing penalties, and supporting providers and community education, House Bill 1389 aligns with the professional commitment of MDACOG and MDAAP to safeguard the health, safety, and rights of minors and vulnerable populations. We strongly urge a favorable vote.

For more information:

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