

February 6, 2015

Councilmember Yvette M. Alexander  
Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairwoman Alexander:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, our 2,800 physician members, and the thousands of patients they treat each and every day, I am writing to you to express the Medical Society's strong support for the **Access to Contraceptives Amendment Act of 2015- B21-0020**. This legislation, introduced by you and eight of your colleagues, addresses a serious impediment regarding women's reproductive rights.

The Medical Society fully supports the policy of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and its Committee on Health Care for Underserved Women. Like ACOG, we believe the current insurance industry practice of restricting a woman's access to contraception by limiting the supply to 90 days, or worse 30 days, is an anachronistic practice that no longer has any basis in the science of medicine. Physicians and their patients can appropriately determine the length of time for which contraceptive prescriptions can be written within clinical guidelines. Those guidelines currently provide for 3-13 month prescriptions. When insurers require dispensing every 30 or 90 days, patient compliance, adherence and continuation fall off dramatically. Continuation of contraceptive use prevents unintended pregnancies, which is good for public health. Therefore, passage of this legislation is predicted to decrease the number of unintended pregnancies in the District of Columbia.

The Medical Society and our OB/Gyn members are available to meet with you and answer any questions as to why the **Access to Contraceptives Amendment Act of 2015** is both good public policy and sound, high quality, efficacious medical practice.

Please don't hesitate to call upon the Medical Society whenever we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



K. Edward Shanbacker  
Executive Vice President