

June 30, 2016

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 2016** (B21-707). This legislation, introduced by eight of your colleagues, addresses reducing barriers to care regarding women's reproductive rights.

The Medical Society supports the policy of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and its Committee on Health Care for Underserved Women regarding the switch to true over the counter status for hormonal contraceptives. However, that is only something that can be done at the federal level by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Until that occurs, the step provided for in this legislation provides women with one more point of access to obtain birth control. Is the legislation a perfect solution? No, but given the jurisdiction of the Council, it is probably about as far as we can go at the local level. We believe that the provisions in the bill provide the necessary patient safety protections. The fact that this legislation can only be implemented "pursuant to a written protocol established by the Board of Pharmacy and the **Board of Medicine**" ensures that physician clinical judgment will be a central part of any protocol.

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 2016** is both good public policy and medically sound patient care.

Please don't hesitate to call upon the Medical Society whenever we can be of assistance. I can be reached at (202) 466-1800, or [Shanbacker@msdc.org](mailto:Shanbacker@msdc.org).

Sincerely,



K. Edward Shanbacker  
Executive Vice President