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Support SB726: Education – School Physical Examinations – Physician Assistant

Background:

- All students entering Maryland Public Schools for the first time must have an updated physical examination on record.

The Issue:

- Under current law, only physicians and certified nurse practitioners are permitted to conduct the physical examination.

What SB726 does:

- Adds licensed physician assistants to the list of those who may complete the physical examination.

Why is SB726 needed?

- Physician assistants are equally well-qualified and capable of conducting these pre-entry examinations. This resource is not being effectively utilized.

Additional information:

- According to the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, in 2018 Maryland had 3,063 certified physician assistants. By allowing these highly qualified professionals to conduct the exams, this legislation will help ensure all students are healthy when starting school.