

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair of the Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Delegates,

This is my written support in the passing of HB0428 bill which will change the title within the State of Maryland of a Podiatrist to a Podiatric Physician. HB0428 is a bi-partisan bill with many committee delegates already in support of the bill as our sponsors.

I am currently a board-certified podiatrist in Foot & Ankle Reconstructive Surgery and Podiatric Medicine. I'm in private practice in Montgomery & Prince George's county, live in Howard County, and a lifelong Baltimorean.

This bill is a way to increase the perception to the public the full acknowledgement of the type of medical care we provide. Any podiatrist has been in a situation where someone is unaware or surprised of the various lower extremity ailments we can treat, let alone be able to do surgical procedures like MD/DO if necessary. We are only able to perform and treat on a wide array of disorders based on our extensive education and training. The public makes an assumption about physicians that they have rigorous, extensive training and schooling in medical care. They trust that their doctors are knowledgeable in their specialized field. However long it took to become advanced in their specialty, the public trusts and they have had sufficient training to treat patients to the best of their ability. The name change to Podiatric Physicians shines a brighter spotlight on this assumption and aids to create a stronger acknowledgement of our capabilities. While hoping to present ourselves as such, we are maintaining our profession and advancement is still in Podiatric Medical Care.

Portions of the public STILL have misconceptions about what they can get treated by a podiatrist. A name change to Podiatric Physician is a true representation of that vast scope of knowledge and abilities within our specialty. The name change is also a better reflection of our broad acceptance in the medical community. Our profession has worked very hard to educate the community that we are surgeons. This is done in every doctor's office, across state boards, and the national level. The community has learned through receiving superior surgical treatments from podiatric surgeons.

A title change to Podiatric Physician creates a better representation to the public of the type of specialty we are. In fact, Podiatrists are both surgeons and physicians of the foot and ankle. The name to Podiatric Physician bill better represents the trust, experience, and skill sets that doctors of podiatric medicine have created for our patients as well as among the rest of the medical community.

I look forward to having the support of the Chair and its Committee Delegates in support of HB0428.

Sincerely,

Adam Lowy, DPM

MPMA Treasurer