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My name is John Michael Thompson, and I am an MD-trained physician and current fellow in foot and ankle surgery at MedStar Union Memorial Hospital. I oppose this bill allowing the term 'physician' to be applied to podiatrists. There is already an ongoing joint task force between orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeons and podiatrists functioning at a national level to address this very issue. I implore the Delegates to honor the expertise and national resources already being invested into this debate, and to not allow this bill to pass on a state level, which would circumvent the process.

Thank you for your consideration.