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Health and Government Operations Committee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 188 Health Occupations - Clinical Nurse Specialists - Prescribing Authority

Good afternoon, Madame Chair, Chairman Pendergrass, Vice Chairman Pena-Melnyk and honorable members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to present HB 188, **Acupuncture Licensure Requirements.** This bill would assure that acupuncturists in Maryland have the same requirements as those in other states, which includes both successful graduation from an accredited acupuncture school and passing the national exam. The bill grandfathers current licensed practitioners and is not fully implemented in 2026, giving those currently attending programs the opportunity to complete both requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 188 and I respectfully request a favorable report.