



Maryland Academy of Audiology

P.O. Box 710

Parkville, MD 21234

<https://maaudiology.org/>

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 714 State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists - Appointment of Members

Position: SUPPORT

Jennifer Kincaid, Ph.D. Oral Testimony

Madam Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Jennifer Kincaid and I currently serve as the President of the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA). The MAA represents more than 500 licensed audiologists who practice in the state and the patients they serve.

The MAA was founded in the early 1990s to provide a professional home for audiologists practicing in the state, as their needs were not being met by other state associations. The MAA is the only state association that is of, by, and for audiologists and focused exclusively on the profession.

The MAA volunteer leadership is comprised entirely of licensed audiologists.¹ The MAA Board provides its members with a path to achieve autonomy in a variety of ways. First, the MAA has been active on legislative and regulatory issues for more than 30 years. Past initiatives include prescription hearing aids, "locked" hearing aids, limitations on patient's choice when utilizing hearing aid coverage benefits, Board of Examiners composition, and more. Second, the annual MAA convention assists attendees in obtaining the 30 hours of continuing education in the area of licensure (audiology) required to be licensed. Third, the MAA works to increase public and

¹ <https://www.maaudiology.org/board/>



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consumer awareness of hearing and balance disorders across the state. Additionally, the MAA website content is entirely audiology-based.

The MAA has knowledge of licensed audiologists who are experienced, capable, and willing to volunteer for the Board position. Additionally, the MAA can assist non-members who wish to self-nominate for a vacant Board audiology seat as demonstrated in past years.²

As the only state association committed to the profession of audiology, the MAA is willing to assume the requirement and submit nominees to the Secretary of Health and Governor for vacant audiology Board seats.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important piece of legislation. I ask for a favorable committee report on SB 714.

Jennifer Kincaid, Ph.D.

President, Maryland Academy of Audiology

² See document titled: 2022 Nominations for the MD Dept of Health Board of Examiners for AuDs, HADs, & SLPs