



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

Melissa Segev, Au.D. Oral Testimony

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

My name is Melissa Segev, and I am a second-generation, licensed audiologist and small business owner of one of the largest and oldest private practices in the State of Maryland. On behalf of the Maryland Academy of Audiology, we are pleased to be working with Senators Kramer and Hershey to provide consistency to the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists regarding the organizations required to submit names for vacant Board audiology seats.

The Board consists of multiple professions. The Hearing Aid Dispensers, Music Therapists, and physicians all nominate candidates for vacant Board seats from their state professional association^{1,2,3}. Audiology does not. The Statute for audiologists requires nominations be submitted "by the Board" [of Examiners].⁴ This inconsistency treats audiologists unfairly and differently in the nomination process.

¹ Maryland Code , Health Occ. § 2-202- Membership, (a) (3), (i).

² Maryland Code , Health Occ. § 2-202- Membership, (a) (6), (i).

³ Maryland Code , Health Occ. § 2-202- Membership, (a) (8), (i).

⁴ Maryland Code , Health Occ. § 2-202- Membership, (a) (5), (i).



Maryland Academy of Audiology

P.O. Box 710

Parkville, MD 21234

<https://maaudiology.org/>

SB 714 would require the audiology state association, MAA, to submit at least three (3) names of licensed audiologists for each vacant Board audiology seat. This change would provide uniformity to the audiology nominating process with the other previously listed professions on the Board.

When passed, there will be no lack of due process. Health Occupations Article 1-215 will still require the Board to notify all licensees of Board vacancies. Currently, one of the three audiologists on the Board is a minority (API). The MAA has submitted names to the Governor for the upcoming vacant Board seat, including an individual who identifies as Native American. If appointed, 2 out of the 3 seats representing audiology will be a minority.

SB 714 does not prohibit individuals, other associations, or organizations from self-nominating for a vacant seat. It simply provides equality with the Board professions in the nominating process.

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

Melissa Segev, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology
Audiology Associates, Inc.