

# **A Spoor SB 714 Oral Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dr. Alicia Spoor

Position: FAV

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**

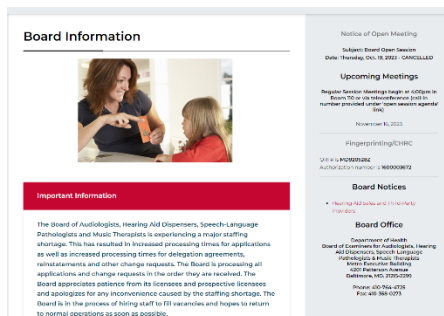
**Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D. Oral Testimony**

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

My name is Alicia Spoor and I am here in **strong** support of SB 714 and am pleased to be working with Senators Kramer and Hershey.

I was appointed the Maryland Academy of Audiology's (MAA) Legislative Chair in 2013 and have been working on state advocacy issues since that time. One of my roles is to attend the Board of Examiners monthly open meetings. In the past 10+ years, I have documented significant deficiencies with the Board, including, but not limited to:

- Revolving and major staffing shortages:



The screenshot shows two panels from the Maryland Board of Examiners website. The left panel, titled 'Board Information', features a photo of a woman and a child and a red 'Important Information' banner. The right panel, titled 'Notice of Open Meeting', states that the meeting for Thursday, Oct. 18, 2023, is cancelled. It also lists upcoming meetings for November 15, 2023, and provides contact information for the Board Office.

- Delays in website updates and content:



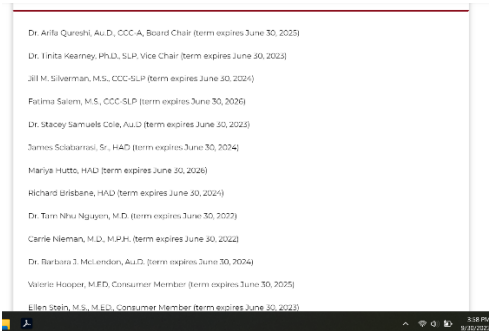
MARYLAND ACADEMY OF  
AUDIOLOGY

Maryland Academy of Audiology

P.O. Box 710

Parkville, MD 21234

<https://maaudiology.org/>



- Significant delays with Board Members attendance to obtain a quorum and conduct a meeting<sup>1</sup>;
- Multiple Board members' attendance at less than 60% during a calendar year; and
- Board staff members who are unable to locate Statute for proposed legislation

just to name a few.

Legislation was passed in 2021 that removed the MAA's responsibility to nominate three licensed audiologists for each vacant Board seat. Therefore, the responsibility was granted exclusively to the Board to submit names to the Governor.

During the Board's open meeting on February 15, 2024, the Board openly acknowledged that it has not been nominating audiologists for the vacant Board seat. [The Board meeting was recorded but is not made public. Committee Members can contact the Board to obtain a recording.] In 2023, the MAA submitted 3 names for the vacant audiology seat directly through the Governor's portal. Multiple conversations were completed noting that the Governor's appointment office had not received names from the Board for the audiology seat and was waiting. The Board did not submit any names, causing significant confusion and delay, including 3 missed Board meetings. This is unacceptable.

SB 714 would remedy this and ensure the confusion and delay does not happen again, by requiring the MAA, audiology's dedicated state association, to submit names for the vacant audiology seat.

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

<sup>1</sup> <https://health.maryland.gov/boardsahs/Documents/mins1123.pdf>



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Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D.

Doctor of Audiology

Legislative Chair, Maryland Academy of Audiology

**Brown Audiology Letter of Information SB 714.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jana Brown

Position: FAV

February 20, 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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: **LETTER OF INFORMATION**

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

I am writing to provide information regarding my personal experience applying to serve on the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists, as an audiologist. Please note that I am providing this information as an audiologist in the State of Maryland, not as a Board of Examiner member.

I was contacted on January 12, 2023 by the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) to determine if I had any interest in serving on the Board of Examiners to fill a vacant audiologist seat. I confirmed that I did wish to have my name submitted for consideration. I began my submission in early February, 2023 and it was submitted directly to the Secretary of Health and Governor through the Governor's portal on February 17, 2023. An "Accepted Recommendation sent to [jana@ahbhearing.com](mailto:jana@ahbhearing.com)" was received on May 25, 2023.

I then heard nothing for almost four (4) months and assumed that I had not been appointed to fill the vacant audiology seat. Around September 22, 2023, I received a letter dated September 18, 2023 confirming my Board appointment. The letter indicated that I had been appointed and my term had begun on July 1, 2023. Immediately, per the letter's instruction, I arranged to be sworn in. I was sworn in on September 26, 2023 and attended my first Board meeting on October 26, 2023.

My concerns are the length of time it took for my appointment to be approved, as audiologists in the state of Maryland did not have full representation on the Board from July to October. The process was also very slow with almost no communication during the entire process. Additionally, had the MAA not contacted me, I would not have submitted my name for the vacant Board seat, as I was not approached by the Board of Examiners. In the most recent Board open meeting, it was noted that the Board has not been submitting names for vacant seats, despite the current Statute to do so.

I am also unaware of receiving an email from the Board about the open audiology seat for which I applied in 2023. I have not received notifications from the Board about any vacant seats for the past five plus years.

I hope this letter will serve to provide information that will improve this entire process.

Best Regards,

 , AuD, FAAA

Jana Brown, AuD  
Board Certified in Audiology  
Maryland License #00586

**J Kincaid SB 714 Oral Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jennifer Kincaid

Position: FAV





Maryland Academy of Audiology

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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.<sup>1</sup> 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

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



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Parkville, MD 21234

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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.<sup>2</sup>

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

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

**M Segev SB 714 Oral Testmony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Melissa Segev

Position: FAV



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<sup>1,2,3</sup>. Audiology does not. The Statute for audiologists requires nominations be submitted "by the Board" [of Examiners].<sup>4</sup> This inconsistency treats audiologists unfairly and differently in the nomination process.

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

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

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

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



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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.

# **Individual Support Letters SB 714.pdf**

Uploaded by: PRESIDENT Kincaid

Position: FAV

**Matthew L. Kashima, M.D., MPH**  
Chairman

Yuri Agrawal, M.D.  
Simon Best, M.D.  
Alexander Hillel, M.D.  
Masaru Ishii, M.D., Ph.D.  
Jean Kim, M.D., Ph.D.  
Young J. Kim, M.D., Ph.D.  
Choon M. Park, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Heather Weinreich, M.D.

**Department of Otolaryngology-  
Head and Neck Surgery**  
4940 Eastern Avenue  
A1V, Room A104  
Baltimore, MD 21224-2780  
410-550-0460 T  
410-550-2870 F



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
M E D I C I N E  
**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
HEALTH SYSTEM

AUDIOLOGY:  
Roni Dinkes, AuD., CCC-A

2.20.2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

My name is Roni Dinkes, and I have been the audiologist at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center for the last 26 years. I work with both pediatrics, adult and geriatric patients.

I have been both the past president and currently a member at large for the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA). The reason I am a member of MAA is because: Audiology is their priority as well as, maintaining the highest level of professionalism and education in Audiology in the state of Maryland.

I firmly believe The Maryland Academy of Audiology should be the only entity nominating and appointing audiologists for the Board of Examiners. The Maryland Academy of Audiology will ensure the Secretary of Health and Governor has at least 3 qualified, professional audiologists for each open BoE audiology seat.

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

Roni E. Dinkes, AuD

Doctor of Audiology License 00738



February 20, 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

My name is Donna Pitts, and I am an associate professor at Loyola University Maryland and a practicing audiologist in the state of Maryland. In this capacity, I teach/train students to become autonomous professional providers within their scope of practice. Additionally, I am the educational audiologist at the Maryland School for the Blind, a private, but publicly funded school. In this capacity I see children from 3-21 who are deaf/blind. Services that I provide there include managing all types of technology (hearing aids, cochlear implants, and classroom amplification systems). I also train staff about the types of technology their students use and push in to classrooms where children who use any technology are being taught on a monthly basis. I accompany deaf/blind students on Orientation and Mobility (O&M) to ensure that their devices perform well enough for students to navigate travel. Finally, I am a member of the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA). I have been active in MAA since it's inception and have served as President, Secretary, Member at Large (current position) and Convention Chair (all multiple times).

The Maryland Academy of Audiology is a professional society of audiologists, practicing in a variety of environments, who are dedicated to serving individuals with hearing and balance disorders. The MAA enhances the ability of members to achieve career and practice objectives by fostering professional autonomy, providing quality continuing education, and increasing public awareness of hearing and balance disorders and the value of audiological services. The MAA sets standards for audiologists in the state of Maryland and we are often at the forefront of these standards and other states often look to us for guidance in their own states. I am also providing a link to our website so that you may peruse all of the resources we provide to our membership: <https://www.maaudiology.org>.

As a member of the MAA leadership, I feel strongly that the Maryland Academy of Audiology best represents audiologists in Maryland and should be the body to nominate candidates for open Board of Examiners seats, as opposed to the Board of Examiners or another organization offering candidates. We are for, by and of audiologists in the state of Maryland and should have autonomous ability to choose our representation on the BOE.



The language of SB 714 is intended to ensure that the ONLY audiology professional association in the state of Maryland, which happens to be MAA, nominates audiologists to represent *audiologists* on the Board of Examiners (Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Music Therapists). It also ensures that the Secretary of Health and the Governor have at least 3 qualified audiologists for each open BoE position, does not prohibit individuals from self-nominating, and mimics other professions' (Hearing Aid Dispensers, Music Therapists and ENTs) nominations. Therefore, audiologists should be able to nominate/appoint a representative from its choosing.

Again, I wish to thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DPitts', with a red horizontal line underneath.

**Donna Pitts, Au.D., MPH**  
Associate Professor  
Graduate Program Director  
Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences  
Pronouns: she/ her/ hers

20 February 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

I am an Audiologist practicing in the State of Maryland, and I am writing this letter in support of SB 714, which addresses appointment of audiologists to the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists. I feel strongly that Audiologist members of the Board should be nominated by a separate professional agency, such as the Maryland Academy of Audiology, rather than by current members of the Board itself.

I recently moved to Maryland from Arizona, where I graduated with my Doctor of Audiology degree from the University of Arizona in 2022. My first experience with the Maryland Board of Examiners took place when I attempted to transfer my Audiology license from Arizona to Maryland under the Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act. My initial impression of the Maryland Board of Examiners is that they are in a period of transition and reorganization. As such, I feel that the current Board may not be in a good position to nominate strong Audiologist members to represent the field of Audiology in its mission to “enhance the quality of the hearing and speech health care provided to the citizens of Maryland.”

I am an early career professional, currently practicing Audiology with Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic, in a busy medical setting where I assess, diagnose, and treat pediatric and adult patients with hearing, balance and related disorders. Because I am new to this position and to the State of Maryland, I depend on my national and state professional organizations, including membership in the Maryland Academy of Audiology, to guide my practice, create a network of professional contacts, and establish myself as a qualified and competent practitioner in my new setting. I have found the Maryland Academy of Audiology to be a dependable resource for professional education, public awareness, and current legislative information in a timely and organized manner.

Additionally, I understand that the other professions represented on the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Music Therapists nominate their members via their own respective professional organizations. It would follow, logically, that Audiologists should follow the same convention, not only for consistency, but to uphold the highest possible professional and ethical standards by avoiding potential conflicts of interest. This bill, if signed into law, would allow the Maryland Academy of Audiology, as the state’s representative professional organization for Audiology, to ensure that the Secretary of Health and the Governor have at least 3 qualified audiologists nominated for each open Audiology seat on the Board, in addition to any candidates who may choose to self-nominate for the positions.

As a new Audiologist in the State of Maryland, I take a strong interest in statewide professional issues and legislation pertaining to my practice. I sincerely hope that this bill and its comprised changes will advance the State Board of Examiners’ ability to ensure that “qualified and competent audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, speech-language pathologists and music therapists are licensed to practice in the State of Maryland.”

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Moritz Clancy, AuD  
Maryland License #01636

20 February 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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

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I am an early career professional, currently practicing Audiology with Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic, in a busy medical setting where I assess, diagnose, and treat pediatric and adult patients with hearing, balance and related disorders. Because I am new to this position and to the State of Maryland, I depend on my national and state professional organizations, including membership in the Maryland Academy of Audiology, to guide my practice, create a network of professional contacts, and establish myself as a qualified and competent practitioner in my new setting. I have found the Maryland Academy of Audiology to be a dependable resource for professional education, public awareness, and current legislative information in a timely and organized manner.

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As a new Audiologist in the State of Maryland, I take a strong interest in statewide professional issues and legislation pertaining to my practice. I sincerely hope that this bill and its comprised changes will advance the State Board of Examiners’ ability to ensure that “qualified and competent audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, speech-language pathologists and music therapists are licensed to practice in the State of Maryland.”

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Moritz Clancy, AuD  
Maryland License #01636

02-20-2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

I am writing in support of the legislation proposed by the Maryland Academy of Audiology. I work in private practice in Glen Burnie, Maryland serving patients of all ages. I perform audiologic evaluations, hearing aid fittings and follow-ups, tinnitus assessments, cochlear implant candidacy evaluations and programming, and cerumen management.

I am in my first year of practice, but I have been a member of MAA for the past two years. I joined during my fourth year externship, and had the opportunity to attend the MAA convention the past two years. In this short amount of time, it was clearly evident how important MAA membership is for continued education and furthering the field of audiology. MAA promotes the autonomy of audiologists to provide hearing and balance care, and to empower audiologists to be a part of legislative action that furthers the field of audiology. MAA also provides quality continued education for its members through the MAA convention. The speakers at the convention educate on the newest research available on how we can tailor practices to optimize patient care and outcomes.

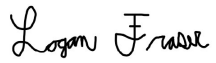
I belong to MAA as its focus is on audiologists in our state and how we can better ourselves as practitioners and advocates for audiology. MAA focuses on pursuing positive change in our state and has direct implications on our licensure. It also allows connection with other audiologists in the state for collaboration. I feel that MAA is a better fit for myself than other national organizations, as it works tirelessly to advocate for audiologists in my home state, and successfully implements positive change.

The SB 714 legislation would ensure that the audiology state professional organization, MAA, is nominating qualified audiologists to the Secretary of Health and Governor to be appointed to the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists. This bill would allow for audiologists to better represent themselves on the board, similarly to how the other professionals on the Board of Examiners are nominated and appointed. This bill would ensure that at least 3 qualified audiologists are presented to the governor whenever an opening on the

Board of Examiners arises. This also will allow individuals to self-nominate for consideration when a position opens.

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Logan Fraser". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'F'.

Logan Fraser, Doctor of Audiology  
Maryland License #01632



# Allegany Hearing & Balance, LLC

938 National Highway, LaVale, MD 21502  
Phone: 301-729-1635 • Fax: 301-729-1697

265 Glass Drive, Suite A, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550  
Phone: 301-334-1018 • Fax: 301-533-9100

E-mail: [ahb@ahbhearing.com](mailto:ahb@ahbhearing.com)

2/20/24

Chair Pamela Beidle  
Finance Committee  
3 East  
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RE: **SB 714** State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists - Appointment of Members  
Position: **SUPPORT**

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

Good day. My name is Kari Harsh, and I am an audiologist in a private practice in western Maryland. We serve a largely rural area, ensuring best available hearing and balance care for our otherwise underserved patients. I am also a member of the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA). The Academy represents the best and brightest of our profession in the state, and we advocate for best practices to move our profession forward and provide the highest level of care to our patients. This organization is an exceptional one to belong to, as it operates on a local basis, focusing on the needs of the state's audiologists and residents; in addition, it is comprised of highly motivated individuals who desire to set the standard for other state organizations. I truly believe MAA is the right choice to appoint audiologists to the Board of Examiners, and I encourage your support of SB 714 legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kari Harsh, Au.D.

Maryland License #01443

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

February 20, 2024

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

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

**I am a Doctor of Audiology in the northern Baltimore area and I am eagerly requesting your support of SB 714.** I was born with single-sided deafness and have multiple family members also affected by hereditary deafness. I use my personal experiences with hearing loss and hearing aids to passionately serve patients of all ages with hearing loss and tinnitus in an audiology clinic (The Hearing Wellness Center) that I co-own with my ENT physician partner.

As a licensed audiologist in the state of Maryland, I am also proud to be a member of the Maryland Academy of Audiology, where I have served on a board as: President, Past-President, President-Elect, Convention Chair, and other volunteer positions. The Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) is our state association that represents the voices of licensed audiologists in the state. The MAA serves as a resource for audiologists to ask questions and seek guidance. The MAA provides a space to network with one another for the betterment of our profession and for the benefit of our patients, both virtually over digital platforms throughout the year and physically at our annual convention where we can obtain continuing education units. Most importantly, the MAA has been a forerunner in setting standards for every other state for the autonomy of audiology and what our industry should look like.

**I urge you to support SB 714.** The bill ensures that an exclusively audiologist-occupied professional state association nominates/appoints audiologists for the Board of Examiners (Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Music Therapists). This bill ensures that the Secretary of Health and Governor has at least 3 properly qualified, professional audiologists for each open BoE audiology seat. The bill does not prohibit individuals from self-nominating. The bill restores consistency by mimicking the nominations/appointments process of the other professions. **The MAA is the most appropriate and logical organization to recruit, vet, and provide nominees (who will best represent the voices of the majority of Maryland audiologists) to the Board of Examiners (BoE).**

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely, *Sofia Roller*

Sofia Roller, Au.D.

Maryland License #01411



February 20, 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

My name is Sarah Hart and I am an audiologist at Allegany Hearing & Balance. I work at our two locations in LaVale and Oakland, Maryland. As an audiologist, I served a myriad of patients and follow them throughout their lifespan. I support pediatric and adult populations with their current needs, be it, hearing aids, cochlear implants, or balance disorders. The profession of audiology is life changing for those we serve as it connects them to the world around them. Audiology has the ability to improve quality of life for patients. The Maryland Academy of Audiology supports the full scope of practice for audiologists in the state of Maryland, which is why I am a member.

The Maryland Academy of Audiology supports audiologists by providing continuing education opportunities as well as educating the public about hearing loss and balance disorders. The academy focuses on the autonomy of audiology ensuring we are able to provide our patients with the best care, while the audiologists have the support they need to practice at the top of our scope. The American Academy of Audiology wants to be at the top of our field, allowing us to set standards for other states for the betterment of the field of audiology.

I am in support of the audiologists, involved in the professional state association being the ones who nominate and appoint audiologists for the Board of Examiners. This will allow those who are involved in the field to interact and nominate the best candidates. This also enables the field of audiology to act as other professional fields when it comes to nominations. A change in this bill will not hinder self-nominations, but will ensure the Secretary of Health and Governor has at least three qualified audiologists for the each open Board of Examiners seat.

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

Sarah F. Hart, AuD

Audiologist  
Maryland License #01529



February 20, 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

I have been a licensed audiologist in the state of Maryland for 18 years, currently working in a private audiology practice in Ellicott City, MD. Previously I have worked for a private practice in Rockville, MD and spent one year in a residency position at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. As an audiologist in Maryland, I strive to provide my patients comprehensive care for their hearing and balance healthcare needs. I see children and adults for diagnostic hearing evaluations, tinnitus evaluations, and hearing aid fitting, care, and maintenance.

The Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) is comprised of audiologists licensed in the state of Maryland. The MAA provides counseling and advocacy to help members achieve career and practice objectives, offers an annual convention for audiologists to network and continue their education in the field, sets standards for other states to follow, and provides resources to patients who are seeking hearing and balance healthcare. I am a member of the Maryland Academy of Audiology and have served on the Board of Directors for the Maryland Academy of Audiology for the past 6 years. I am currently serving as the President of the Maryland Academy of Audiology. I belong to and serve the MAA because it is the only state organization in Maryland that focuses on the interests of audiologists and no other profession, thus most accurately understanding and representing the issues facing my profession and the interests of hearing and balance healthcare patients.

There are numerous reasons that the Maryland Academy of Audiology should be the organization to nominate audiologists to an open seat on the Board of Examiners of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Music Therapists:

- Only state organization representing only audiologists
- Most accurately understands and represents the issues facing my profession and the interests of hearing and balance healthcare patients.
- Ensures the Secretary of Health and the Governor have at least 3 qualified, professional audiologists for each open Board of Examiners audiology seat
- Mimics the nomination process of other providers on the Board
- Legislation does not prohibit individuals from self-nominating

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Kincaid, Ph.D.  
Maryland License #01084



938 National Hwy, LaVale, MD 21502  
301-729-1635 chelsea@ahbhearing.com

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

My name is Dr. Chelsea Lambie and I am an audiologist at Allegany Hearing & Balance in Lavale and Oakland, Maryland. I work with a variety of patients in Allegany and Garrett county ranging from newborns to elderly. In our offices, we provide audiological care in the form of hearing evaluations, hearing aid fittings, cochlear implant programming, and balance evaluation and treatment. I am currently a member of the Maryland Academy of Audiology.

The Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) is a body comprised only of audiologists with focus on promoting better hearing and balance care to our patients. MAA provides resources to practicing audiologists to promote professional autonomy, continuing education, and increase public awareness of hearing and balance disorders. As an MAA member, I feel pride in knowing that my fellow members have our patients and our profession as top priorities when making decisions regarding changes in legislation and governing bodies.

SB 714 was created to promote the appointment of qualified, professional audiologists for each Board of Examiners audiology seat. By allowing MAA to nominate competent audiologists for open positions, we can ensure legislative changes can be made by passionate and dedicated individuals with the best interests of patients and audiologists in mind. This bill does not limit non-MAA members from holding positions on the Board as non-members still have the ability to self-nominate. The change presented in this bill reflects other professions' nominations and appointments such as otolaryngologists, hearing aid dispensers, and music therapists.

To conclude, supporting SB 714 will allow Maryland audiologists to be governed by a Board that is comprised of individuals that are passionate about our profession and our patients.

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Lambie, AuD, FAAA  
Maryland License # 01520



938 National Hwy LaVale, MD 21502  
301-729-1635 [ahb@ahbhearing.com](mailto:ahb@ahbhearing.com)

02/20/2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

I am a full-time private practice audiologist and a small business owner in Western Maryland. My office, Allegany Hearing & Balance, currently serves patients of all ages in the rural regions of the state out of our two locations in LaVale and Oakland. We offer a wide variety of services to the members of our communities, including diagnostic hearing exams, full neuro-diagnostic vestibular evaluations, cochlear implant services, tinnitus evaluations and management solutions, prescription hearing aid fittings and follow ups, and Over-the-Counter hearing devices. I am also a member of the Maryland Academy of Audiology where I currently serve on the Board of Directors as a Member at Large.

The Maryland Academy of Audiology provides exceptional value to the audiologists that it serves by providing a wide range of continuing education opportunities, updating its members on legislative issues and changes, increasing awareness about the field of audiology as well as hearing and balance disorders, and by supporting our professional autonomy. The mission of the MAA is to enhance the field of audiology and to continue to provide the highest quality of services to its members. It is because of this high standard and focus to the profession that I have chosen to belong to this particular organization and serve on its Board. The collaboration among the top professionals in the state also allows me to practice at the highest level of my scope of practice and to continue to provide outstanding services to my patients.

Because of their high standards and dedication to the audiologists in the state of Maryland, I believe that the MAA should be responsible for nominating candidates for open positions on the Board of Examiners (Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Music Therapists). The proposed legislation is not in any way intended to restrict individuals from self-nominating but to ensure that highly qualified individuals are being considered. This legislation is in alignment with the



other professionals that serve on the Board of Examiners (Hearing Aid Dispensers and Music Therapists). This bill would also ensure that the Secretary of Health and Governor has at a minimum, three qualified, professional audiologists to consider for the open audiology Board seat(s).

Thank you for taking the time to review this information and for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chissy Lemley', is written over a large, loopy scribble.

Chissy Lemley, Au.D.  
Maryland License #01315



25480 Point Lookout Road  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
Phone: 240-434-4040  
Fax: 240-434-4039  
[info@chesapeakeaudiology.com](mailto:info@chesapeakeaudiology.com)

---

February 20, 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

I own an audiology private practice in Leonardtown and I am fortunate enough to serve a variety of patients. I have owned this practice for 15 years and have been licensed in Maryland for 19 years. I am also the immediate Past President of the Maryland Academy of Audiology as well as a former Member At Large.

The Maryland Academy of Audiology promotes audiology in the state and creates a place where Maryland audiologists can promote best practices. We hold an annual convention where audiologists can learn and share ideas.

It is important that audiologists on the Board of Examiners best represent audiology in Maryland. The Maryland Academy of Audiology is the only organization in the state that can do this. Other boards in Maryland and other states follow these same guidelines and only take nominations from their state audiology academy or as self-nominations.

Please consider supporting this bill and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

Leigh McCarthy, AuD

Maryland license #01069

Lmccarthy@chesapeakeaudiology.com

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

I am an Audiologist in a private practice located in LaVale, Maryland. At Allegany Hearing & Balance, we serve newborns to geriatrics. In a typical day, we conduct newborn hearing screenings, diagnostic hearing tests, hearing aid evaluations, vestibular/neurodiagnostic testing for balance and vertigo, and more. The six audiologists at our practice are devoted to providing evidence-based practices as well as exceptional service. These are core values that the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) also exemplifies.

I am proud of what MAA aims to accomplish in advancing our field and therefore helping more patients obtain effective and efficient healthcare. MAA is a significant presence in terms of advocacy for both patients and providers. MAA strives to have audiologists recognized as autonomous providers, which therefore allows us to better service our patients in an efficient manner. I belong to MAA because as a newer audiologist (two years in the field), I strongly believe that MAA will help audiologists practice to the top of their scope. I know that MAA has the best intentions in regards to helping audiologists obtain autonomy.

As a member of MAA, I believe that the nomination for the open Board of Examiners audiology seats should come from the only professional audiology state association (MAA). As the only governing audiological group in the state, I believe that MAA and practicing audiologists in Maryland will be able to nominate capable and professional audiologists to the open board seats. Having at least three audiologists that are qualified for the position will help ensure that the members on the Board of Examiners have the profession's best interests in mind. Having this nomination process in place will mimic other professions on the board such as music therapists and hearing aid dispensers.

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

*Alex Murray* Au.D, F-AAA

Alex Murray, AuD  
Maryland License #01553

February 20, 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

As a licensed audiologist in the state of Maryland, the passage of SB 714 is very important for myself and my fellow Maryland audiologists. As you know, audiologists are currently nominated for each open Board of Examiners (BoE) position by the BoE while Hearing Aid Dispensers, Music Therapists, and Otolaryngologists are nominated to the BoE by their state organizations. How is it fair that these other professions are able to have their state organizations submit nominations for these open positions while audiologists are left to rely upon the BoE to nominate us to the BoE? A group that is not a representation and a voice for audiologists in the state should not choose who is nominated to be on the BoE. This should be done by the group the state organization for audiologists, which is The Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA). MAA works very hard to provide counseling and advocacy to help members achieve career and practice objectives, and provides continuing education hours through their annual two-day conference which takes place in the fall. As a board member since 2023, I can attest to the work that MAA board members put into educating audiologists in our state and keeping members informed. Allowing MAA to be the nominating group for open BoE positions ensures that we as fellow audiologists feel comfortable with the nominees/appointed individuals representing us on the BoE. While the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and The American Academy of Audiology (AAA) are just two of the largest organizations with audiologists, these groups focus more on what is happening with audiology as a whole and not specifically in Maryland. They do not send member updates about state-specific legislative updates and changes. That comes from MAA, as MAA is truly the voice of audiologists in Maryland. Changing this appointment process would ensure that the Secretary of Health and the Governor have at least three qualified professional audiologists for each



open BoE audiology seat and that the nominations and appointments mimic the nominations and appointments of the other professions on the BoE.

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Niki Razeghi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nikita Razeghi, Au.D.

Maryland License #01474

02/20/2024

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

RE: 5B 714 State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists - Appointment of Members  
Position: **SUPPORT**

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


As an audiologist in Maryland of almost 30 years, I am very connected to the audiology community. Having served the consumers of Maryland in clinical, academic, and advocacy roles, I have a strong knowledge of best practices and consumer protection which our patients should all be represented by.

I am a member of the Maryland Academy of Audiology which is the only state organization that supports best practices, to ensure the consumers of Maryland are provided with the most professional and ethical care. Our board is composed of passionate audiologists who volunteer their time to ensure that our members are educated on cutting edge research and the legislative issues that impact the care of our patients. The Maryland Academy of Audiology represents the excellence of the audiologists who hold themselves to the highest ethical standards for the consumers they serve in the state of Maryland.

In closing, your support of SB 714:

- Ensures the audiology (only) professional state association nominates/appoints audiologists for the Board of Examiners (Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Music Therapists).
- Ensures the Secretary of Health and Governor has at least 3 qualified, professional audiologists for each open BoE audiology seat.
- Does not prohibit individuals from self-nominating.
- Mimics the other professions' nominations/appointments represented on the Maryland BoE.

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,  
  
Candace G. Robinson, AuD  
Maryland License #00744

Melissa J. Segev, Au.D.  
Briana Bruno Holtan, Au.D.  
Mikayla Abrams, Au.D.  
Kelly Anne Boylan, Au.D.  
Lindsay Dennison, Au.D.  
Leslie Gilbert, Au.D.  
Logan Fraser, Au.D.



Jennifer Kincaid, Ph.D.  
Jessica Kreidler, Au.D.  
Angela Lowe, Au.D.  
Niki Razeghi, Au.D.  
Candace Robinson, Au.D.  
Corinne Waterman, Au.D.

February 20, 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

As a licensed practicing audiologist for over 26 years and small business owner of one of the largest and oldest private practices in the State of Maryland, I would like to express my support for SB 714. I currently have 10 office locations in Maryland, including the Eastern Shore, and provide hearing and balance healthcare services to patients of all ages. I have also served on numerous Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) board positions from 1998 to 2010 and was actively involved in nominating audiologists for the Board of Examiners (BOE) audiology open seats at that time. I feel strongly that MAA is the ONLY qualified professional state organization to nominate audiologists for the BOE audiology open positions as opposed to other professional organizations.

The MAA truly represents the “Voice of Audiology” in the State of Maryland. It is the ONLY Maryland organization that is dedicated to meet the needs of audiologist and both improves and promotes professional audiology services to all people with hearing and balance impairment. Additionally, it is the ONLY state organization that consists of university-trained audiologists practicing in a variety of occupational settings and fosters the ability of its members to achieve their career professional objectives by providing continuing education experiences.

This legislation WILL NOT prohibit individuals from self-nominating. It mimics other professions’ nomination/appointment process. It will ensue that the Secretary of Health and Governor have 3 qualified professional audiology nominations to serve thus leaving no one in Maryland behind.

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Briana D. Holtan'.

Briana Bruno Holtan, Au.D.  
Maryland License #00909

Administrative Office: 3615 E. Joppa Road, Suite 210 Parkville, MD 21234 (410) 944-3100

79 Forest Plaza Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 266-6444  
3455 Wilkens Ave., Suite 206 Baltimore, MD 21229 (410) 646-3100  
9613-I Harford Road Baltimore, MD 21234 (410) 668-5500  
33rd Street Prof. Bldg. 200 E. 33rd St., Ste. 631 Baltimore, MD 21218 (443) 948-7440  
8737 Brooks Dr. Ste. 204 Easton, MD 21601 (410) 820-9826  
9338 Baltimore National. Pike Ellicott City, MD 21042 (410) 313-9100

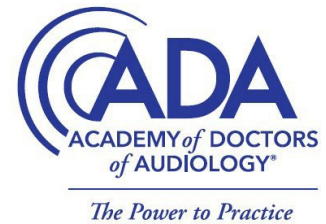
7845 Oakwood Road, Suite 303 Glen Burnie, MD 21061 (410) 760-4327  
1629 York Road Lutherville, MD 21093 (443) 578-3900  
Fairhaven 7200 3rd Ave #1000 Sykesville, MD 21784 (410) 646-3100  
2147 York Road Timonium, MD 21093 (410) 252-3100  
2021 K Street, NW, Suite 420 Washington, DC 20006 (202) 844-6699  
3301 New Mexico Ave., Ste 310, NW Washington, DC 20016 (202) 363-2363

# **Organization Support Letters SB 714.pdf**

Uploaded by: PRESIDENT Kincaid

Position: FAV

February 20, 2024



Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

I write to you today on behalf of the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), a professional association representing audiologists in Maryland and across the United States, to strongly support and endorse SB 714.

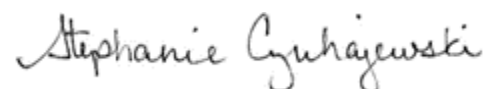
As the only professional organization in Maryland exclusively dedicated to serving and advancing the profession of audiology, the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) and its leaders are uniquely qualified to nominate audiologists to the Board of Examiners (Board), because they have an in-depth understanding of the professional landscape necessary to ensure Board representation that is diverse, competent, and principled.

In 2019, the MAA and ADA co-located their annual conferences at the Gaylord National Harbor Resort. There, ADA members and leaders were able to experience first-hand the exemplary leadership, training, resources, and information that MAA delivers to its members and the patients they serve.

SB 714 aligns with the Board nomination process that the State of Maryland utilizes for other professions and would not prohibit individual audiologists from self-nominating, and MAA promotes the highest ethical standards and evidence-based practices in the delivery of hearing and balance healthcare services. Therefore, ADA urges swift passage and implementation of SB 714.

Please contact me at [sczuhajewski@audiologist.org](mailto:sczuhajewski@audiologist.org) if I can provide additional information about the merits of SB 714 or be of service to you in any way.

Respectfully,



Stephanie Czuhajewski, MPH, CAE  
Executive Director



11480 Commerce Park Drive tel 800-AAA-2336  
Suite 220 fax 703-790-8631  
Reston, VA 20191 www.audiology.org

February 14, 2024

Ms. Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB0714 State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists - Appointment of Members  
Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the American Academy of Audiology (the Academy) I am writing in support of SB0714. The Academy is the world's largest professional organization of, by and for audiologists. Representing the interests of audiologists in all practice settings, the Academy is dedicated to providing quality hearing care services through professional development, education, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders.

SB0714 would ensure that the state association solely devoted to representing the profession of audiology would have the responsibility of appointing or nominating qualified audiologists for the designated seats on the state Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech Language Pathologists and Music Therapists. This language would ensure that the Board would have a consistent pipeline of qualified candidates and would not preclude any individual audiologist from self-nominating themselves for consideration. This change would also align how audiology seat nominations are conducted with other professions that fall beneath the Board such as hearing aid dispensers and music therapists.

In conclusion, the Academy urges the passage of this common-sense legislation. If you have questions regarding this letter or information included herein, please contact Susan Pilch, Senior Director of Government Relations at [spilch@audiology.org](mailto:spilch@audiology.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick E. Gallagher".

Patrick Gallagher, Executive Director



MARYLAND ACADEMY OF  
AUDIOLOGY

February 20, 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle  
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**

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

The Maryland Academy of Audiology is comprised of audiologists licensed in the state of Maryland. The MAA provides counseling and advocacy to help members achieve career and practice objectives, offers an annual convention for audiologists to network and continue their education in the profession, sets standards for other states to follow, and provides resources to patients who are seeking hearing and balance healthcare. The MAA is the only state organization in Maryland that focuses only on the interests of audiologists and the patients they serve, thus most accurately understanding and representing the issues facing the profession and the interests of hearing and balance healthcare patients.

As a licensed Maryland audiologist, I am currently serving as the President of the Maryland Academy of Audiology and have served on the Board of Directors for the past 6 years. The Maryland Academy of Audiology has a long history of advocating at the state and national level for the rights of hearing and balance healthcare patients and audiologists. In recent years, the academy helped remove barriers to hearing healthcare, such as requiring notification to patients about “locked” hearing aids and allowing audiologists to directly prescribe hearing aids to their patients. The MAA’s actions have set an example for other states to achieve similar goals. I belong to and serve the MAA because I strongly feel the MAA’s unique position representing only audiologists allows for complete focus on the interests of hearing and balance healthcare.

There are numerous reasons that the Maryland Academy of Audiology should be the organization to nominate audiologists to open audiology seats on the Board of Examiners of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Music Therapists. The MAA:

- Only state organization representing only audiologists
- Most accurately understands and represents the issues facing the profession of audiology and the interests of hearing and balance healthcare patients.
- Ensures the Secretary of Health and the Governor have at least 3 qualified, professional audiologists for each open Board of Examiners audiology seat

Additionally, the legislation does not prohibit individuals from self-nominating to the Board of Examiners, and most importantly, mimics the nomination process of other providers on the Board.

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kincaid', written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

Jennifer Kincaid, Ph.D.

President, Maryland Academy of Audiology



**SB 714 MSHA FWA .pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Smith

Position: FWA



February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Chair Pam Beidle  
Senate Finance Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

**Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

The Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) has represented nearly 4,000 licensed professionals with advanced degrees in speech-language and audiology since 1964. We write to offer proposed amendments to SB 714, which would require the Governor to appoint licensed audiologists to the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists from a list submitted by the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) rather than by the Board itself.

We are concerned that the bill as written would allow only the Maryland Academy of Audiology to submit names for appointment of audiologists to the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists. As the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)-affiliated state association, MSHA represents the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology, including over 350 ASHA certified audiologists who work in the state. Both MSHA and MAA are deeply invested in the practice of audiology in Maryland. We ask **that MSHA be given an equal opportunity to submit names for appointment of**

Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
140B Purcellville Gateway Drive, Suite 120  
Purcellville, VA 20132  
301-304-7001  
[info@mdslha.org](mailto:info@mdslha.org)  
[www.mdslha.org](http://www.mdslha.org)

**audiologists to the Board** and suggest the following language with proposed additions underlined and deletions in red:

*(5) (i) Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the Governor shall appoint the audiologist members, with the advice of the Secretary, from ~~a list~~s submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the [Board] MARYLAND ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY AND THE MARYLAND SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION.*

**We also request an amendment to the bill that would allow MSHA, as the only organization that represents SLPs in the state, to submit the same to the Governor:**

*(i) Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the Governor shall appoint the speech-language pathologist members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association.*

*(ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the number of vacancies.*

*(iii) For each speech-language pathology vacancy, the Board shall notify all licensed speech-language pathologists in the State of the vacancy to solicit nominations to fill the vacancy.*

Thank you for considering MSHA's proposed amendments to SB 714.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



Megan Miskowski, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Director of Advocacy and Public Policy  
Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association



Sarah Sparks, Au.D., CCC-A, CH-TM  
Director of Audiology  
Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association

Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
140B Purcellville Gateway Drive, Suite 120  
Purcellville, VA 20132  
301-304-7001  
[info@mdslha.org](mailto:info@mdslha.org)  
[www.mdslha.org](http://www.mdslha.org)

**13 - SB 714- FIN - Audiology Bd - Oppose.pdf**

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: UNF



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Board of Examiners for Audiologists,  
Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language  
Pathologists & Music Therapists  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

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### 2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO:** SB 714  
**COMMITTEE:** Finance  
**POSITION:** Oppose

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**TITLE:** State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Appointment of Members

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This proposed bill will require the Governor to appoint the licensed audiologist members to the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists (the “Board”) from a list submitted by the Maryland Academy of Audiology rather than the Board.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Board opposes SB 714.

In 2021, the Board put forth SB 523/HB 600 to remove the Maryland Academy of Audiology from statute with the authority to appoint audiologist members to the Board. This bill passed (see chapters 711 and 712). The Board strongly disagrees that this language should be reinstated.

Pertaining to member appointments, the Board wishes to maintain consistency throughout all the represented disciplines. To solely select Board members from private organizations, would exclude countless audiologists from having the privilege and the opportunity to serve.

The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists, strongly urges an unfavorable report on SB 714.

Thank you for your consideration. If you should require anything further, please contact Keena Stephenson, Executive Director, at [keena.stephenson1@maryland.gov](mailto:keena.stephenson1@maryland.gov), or 443.832.0597.

*The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.*

**ASHA Comments to MD re SB 714 Board Makeup.pdf**

Uploaded by: Susan Adams

Position: UNF



February 14, 2024

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

RE: SB 714

Dear Senator Beidle:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to share concerns with and offer proposed amendments to SB 714, which would require the Governor to appoint licensed audiologists to the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists from a list submitted by the Maryland Academy of Audiology rather than by the Board itself.

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 228,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. Over 4,200 ASHA members reside in Maryland.<sup>1</sup>

We are concerned that the bill as written would allow only the Maryland Audiology Association to submit names for appointment of audiologists to the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists. As an ASHA-affiliated state association, the Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) represents the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology in Maryland, including the over 350 ASHA certified audiologists and 3,800 SLPs who work in the state. We ask that MSHA be given an equal opportunity to submit names for appointment of audiologists to the Board and suggest the following language with proposed additions underlined and deletions in **red**:

(5) (i) Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the Governor shall appoint the audiologist members, with the advice of the Secretary, from **a lists** submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the [Board] MARYLAND ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY AND THE MARYLAND SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION.

We also request an amendment to the bill that would allow MSHA, as the only organization that represents SLPs in the state, to submit the same to the Governor. ASHA suggests the following language:

- (i) Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the Governor shall appoint the speech-language pathologist members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- (ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the number of vacancies.
- (iii) For each speech-language pathology vacancy, the Board shall notify all licensed speech-language pathologists in the State of the vacancy to solicit nominations to fill the vacancy.

Thank you for considering ASHA's proposed amendments to SB 714. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at [sadams@asha.org](mailto:sadams@asha.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tena L. McNamara', written in a cursive style.

Tena L. McNamara, AuD, CCC-A/SLP  
2024 ASHA President

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<sup>1</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2023). *Maryland* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/maryland-state-flyer.pdf>