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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 406: State Board of Examiners for Audiologists,
Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists –
- Appointment of Members and Quorum**

**Senate Finance Committee
March 19, 2025**

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of the Finance Committee. I'm Delegate Pam Guzzone representing Howard County's District 13 and I am here in support of House Bill 406 regarding the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists.

As introduced, the bill eliminated the role of all professional organizations from the Board's appointment process to ensure consistency across the organizations.

In addition, the original language modified the requirement for what constitutes a quorum to eliminate the requirement that at least one representative from each discipline—an audiologist, hearing aid dispenser, speech-language pathologist, and a music therapist was needed for a quorum.

This quorum requirement frequently causes delays in addressing key issues since if a representative from one discipline is unable to attend, no meeting can be held; it is particularly a challenge because the Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington D.C. and Delaware – which is named in the statute as the organization that shall provide a Hearing Aid Dispenser candidate list to the Board and the Governor – is no longer in existence making it impossible to nominate new Hearing Aid Dispenser members.

As amended in the House, the bill simply removes the role of the Hearing Aid Society from the Licensure Board's process, ending that roadblock to appointing Hearing Aid Dispensers.

I respectfully request a favorable report for HB 406.