



*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary*

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
240 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: Senate Bill 217 – Health Occupations Boards - Membership Alteration and Sunset Extensions – Letter of Support as Amended**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 217 - Health Occupations Boards - Membership Alteration and Sunset Extensions.

SB 217 extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board of Pharmacy to July 1, 2030. The bill will also extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the following Boards to July 1, 2031: The Board of Massage Therapy Examiners, The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists, The Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists and The Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee within the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists. Additionally, the bill will add two new members to the Massage Therapy Board, one member who is a licensed massage therapist, and one who is a consumer.

Health Occupations Boards are mandated by the General Assembly to protect the public health, well-being and safety of the citizens of Maryland. Extending the termination provisions of these boards will ensure they can continue to fulfill their responsibilities such as credentialing and licensing qualified and competent professionals, and disciplining licensed professionals found to have violated their respective rules of conduct.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Health respectfully requests a favorable vote on SB 217. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Ryan B. Moran, DrPH, MHSA  
Acting Secretary