

**TO:** The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair  
*Finance Committee*

**SB326**  
**Favorable**

**FROM:** Brandon Floyd  
*Associate Director, Maryland Government Affairs*

**DATE:** February 6, 2026

**RE:** SB 326 Physician Assistants - Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners

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Johns Hopkins supports **SB 326 Physician Assistants - Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners** which would enhance the role of physician assistants (PAs) in Maryland's healthcare system by permitting them to participate in guardianship proceedings for disabled persons, admit individuals to facilities on both a voluntary and involuntary basis, and engage in emergency evaluation programs.

Maryland continues to face healthcare workforce crisis, and we simply do not have enough clinicians to meet the needs of our communities, particularly in rural areas and underserved neighborhoods. Johns Hopkins employs hundreds of PAs who practice at the top of their license providing quality care to patients. This legislation increases the pool of qualified professionals available to serve patients when and where they are needed most by expanding the functions that PAs can perform.

For example, families seeking guardianship for loved ones with disabilities and patients requiring facility admission often face lengthy delays which lead to worsened patient outcomes and hospital boarding, causing long wait times in emergency departments. Allowing PAs to participate in these processes will remove some unnecessary barriers preventing patients from accessing appropriate levels of care.

Physician assistants complete rigorous graduate level education and clinical training that prepares them to handle the responsibilities outlined in this bill. It is worth noting that many PAs already perform similar functions in other states and federal healthcare systems. Allowing PAs to practice to the full extent of their preparation ensures Maryland's health care system can make the best use of these talented clinicians serving emergency departments, primary care, and specialty settings throughout our state.

Johns Hopkins supports Senate Bill 326 because it represents a practical approach to expanding access to healthcare, addressing workforce shortages, and allowing physician assistants to contribute more fully to healthcare teams.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **SB 326**.