

Senate Bill 326 – Physician Assistants – Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners

POSITION: Support

February 10, 2026

Senate Finance Committee

The University of Maryland Medical System (“UMMS”) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 326 – Physician Assistants – Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners. Senate Bill 326 (“SB 326”) would authorize a physician assistant (“PA”) to perform certain additional duties, such as participating in guardianship proceedings for individuals with disabilities and participate in emergency evaluation programs, thereby better aligning PA duties with other advanced practice providers in the State.

As the State continues to grapple with a significant healthcare workforce shortage, it is imperative that we maximize the use of our existing advanced practice providers, including physician assistants. SB 326 takes an important, and well-reasoned step in that direction by better aligning physician assistant duties with those of other advanced practice providers, such as nurse practitioners (NPs). By doing so, we can ensure that PAs are able to practice to the full extent of their training and expertise, which will ultimately benefit patients and the healthcare system as a whole.

This bill is particularly important to UMMS, our 11 member hospitals, and the communities we serve. UMMS hospitals are located in 13 counties and Baltimore City, and serve urban, suburban, and rural communities. We simply do not have sufficient clinicians to meet the needs of the communities we serve, particularly in rural and underserved communities. UMMS employs several hundred PAs and allowing these team members to perform additional duties for which they are trained and qualified will assist the health system in continuing to provide high-quality care to our patients. In addition, our facilities utilize nurse practitioners and physician assistants similarly, and this bill will help to eliminate unnecessary distinctions between the duties that each may perform. This bill should not be viewed as an expansion of scope of practice, but rather a level set that brings physician assistants in line with the duties of other advanced practice providers.

For these reasons, the University of Maryland Medical System strongly supports SB 326, and respectfully requests a *favorable* report on the bill.

For more information, please contact:

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