

House Bill 377 – Physician Assistants – Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners

POSITION: Support

February 4, 2026

House Health Committee

The University of Maryland Medical System (“UMMS”) respectfully submit this letter of support for House Bill 377 – Physician Assistants – Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners. House Bill 377 (“HB 377”) would authorize a physician assistant (“PA”) to perform certain additional duties, thereby better aligning PA duties with other advanced practice providers in the State.

The University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) provides primary, urgent, emergency and specialty care at 12 hospitals and more than 150 medical facilities across the state. The UMMS network includes academic, community and specialty hospitals that together provide 25 percent of all hospital-based care in Maryland. Our acute care and specialty hospitals are located in 13 counties and Baltimore City, and serve urban, suburban and rural communities.

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. HB 377 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.

From a hospital perspective, this bill is particularly important to the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) and our 11 member hospitals. In practice 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 HB 377, and respectfully requests a *favorable* report on the bill.

For more information, please contact:

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