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Judicial Proceedings Committee

Vice Chair, Baltimore County  
Senate Delegation



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
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Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Dolores G. Kelley  
3 East Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

**RE: SB 304 – Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission – Certifying Providers**

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to introduce Senate Bill 304 which will authorize physician assistants to be “certifying providers” under Maryland’s medical cannabis program.

Physician assistants are licensed by the Board of Physicians and work directly with licensed physicians under a delegation agreement approved by the board. Physician assistants often provide medical care to patients who have limited access to medical care. In addition to providing medical care, physician assistants have prescriptive authority and can obtain State CDS registration if they have CDS prescriptive authority from their primary supervising physician.

Senate Bill 304 will subject physician assistants to the same process for registration, restrictions and protections that are required under current law for certifying physicians, dentists, podiatrists, nurse practitioners, and nurse midwives. There is no fiscal impact from this bill, as the commission can approve and register physician assistants as certifying providers with their existing budgeted resources and staff. Senate Bill 304 will make it easier for physician assistants to provide their patients with the treatment they feel is necessary without having to refer them to someone else who is a registered certified provider.

I would like to note that this bill was introduced last year and made it through both the house and senate chambers however there was not enough time left to reconcile the differences between the two chambers. With lots of time left this session it is my hope we will be able to pass this bill on the second go-around.

I ask the committee for a favorable report on Senate Bill 304.