



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Maryland State Board of Chiropractic Examiners
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February 18, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair and Committee Members
Health and Government Affairs Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Bill Number – HB 428 - Health Occupations – Podiatric Physicians – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

The Maryland State Board of Chiropractic Examiners is submitting this letter of support for HB 428 - Health Occupations – Podiatric Physicians.

The bill allows for podiatrists to call themselves podiatric physicians. Podiatrists can use this term in advertising and signage. The term “physician” means “a healer”. Merriam-Webster (as do all dictionaries) defines “physician” as “a person skilled in the art of healing”. The term “physician” is not exclusive to, nor is it “owned” by, the allopathic (M.D.) profession. Podiatrists are licensed health care professionals who are concerned with foot health and they have a broad scope of practice that includes laboratory testing, diagnostic imaging, and rendering treatment – even including surgery.

Any health care professional that has a broad scope of practice and is mandated by standards of care to diagnose and treat patients certainly qualifies to be called a “Physician”. This is congruent with “a person skilled in the art of healing”, the real meaning of the term “Physician”.

This change in the law allows for a more accurate description of the true role of the podiatrist and their full scope of practice in treating patients with foot problems and it will not in any way harm patients. A “Podiatric Physician” is a health care professional with a full scope of practice to comprehensively care for foot health and will not cause any confusion to the consumers of Maryland. For these reasons the Chiropractic Board respectfully requests that HB 428 receive a favorable report.

HB 428 - Support
MD Chiropractic Board

The Board hopes that this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at Dr. Gregory Lewis, 443-250-7664, glewisdc@gmail.com. In addition, the Board's Executive Director, Sharon Oliver, may be reached at 410-764-5985, sharon.oliver@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Gregory Lewis, D.C.
President

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Chiropractic Examiners expressed in this letter of support does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.