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The Honorable Shane Pendergast
Chair of the Health and Government Operations Committee

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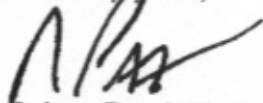
I am writing this communication in support of my podiatry colleagues pursuit of the title of "podiatric physician" with all the privileges, responsibilities and oversight pursuant to HRB0428.

I have had the honor of practicing inpatient Internal Medicine in co-management with the Franklin Square Podiatry Associates for the better part of 14 years. During that time I have experienced a mutually rewarding and collaborative relationship in caring for patients. It is because my professional experience with their clinical excellence that I have become impressed by and come to feel comfortable in supporting these efforts.

Their education, training and experience have proven to be the highest caliber of clinical excellence. I advocate that their title and MedChi should recognize that the term "podiatric physician" accurately reflects their scope and quality of practice. Currently both CMS and Medicare already recognize podiatrist as physicians. Their residency training includes interdisciplinary experience with rotations such as anesthesiology, internal medicine, infectious disease, surgery, emergency medicine, as well as pediatrics. This training combined with their practice experience are very much analogous to the internal medicine physicians whom MedChi currently represent.

I expect that recognizing and welcoming our podiatric colleagues into our membership will elevate the quality of care in our great State of Maryland. Please join me in strengthening our membership and scope of care in advocacy of HRB0428.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Paz, MD MS