



**Mount
Sinai
Beth Israel**

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The Honorable Shane Pendergrass
Chair of the Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland State House
100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Pendergrass,

I am taking the liberty to write to you in support of the change of the title of Podiatrist to Podiatric Physician in the state of Maryland (bi-partisan HRB0428).

I am a vascular surgeon and have spent my whole surgical career working in close association with podiatrists, both in New York City and in Baltimore. In both these locations, podiatrists were an integral part of the faculty of the surgical department of which I was the chair.

During my tenure as Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Medstar Franklin Square Medical Center from 1993 to 2016, the section of podiatric surgery became its own section independent of orthopedic surgery. Furthermore, Dr. Vincent Martorana, who was the chief of podiatry, rose to be the president of the medical staff at the hospital and eventually served as chairman of the board of the medical center. He currently serves as a member of the Medstar Health Board.

In my current position as chief of surgery at Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City, the podiatric surgeons receive the same recognition as their other surgical colleagues.

The training and experience of podiatric surgeons has progressed significantly over the years to warrant such a change in title. In order to practice Podiatry in Maryland, one must have graduated from an accredited College of Podiatric Medicine and completed an accredited three year residency program. Additionally many residents are electing to complete a fourth year fellowship program in reconstructive rear-foot and ankle surgery.



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Podiatrists:

- are trained to perform comprehensive medical history and physical examinations;
- prescribe drugs and perform physical therapy;
- perform surgeries ranging from basic to complex re-constructive surgery;
- repair fractures and treat sports-related injuries;
- prescribe and fit orthotics, durable medical goods, and custom-made shoes;
- perform and interpret X-rays and other imaging and diagnostic studies.

For the reasons just enumerated, I feel fitting that the term Podiatric Physician would more accurately reflect to the public the quality of care that one can expect to receive from today's podiatrist.

I thank you in advance for the consideration that you may give to my support of the bi-partisan bill HRB0428.

Kind Regards,

Daniel L. Picard, MD, FACS