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**Committee:** House Ways and Means Committee  
**Bill Number:** House Bill 497  
**Title:** Education – School Physical Examinations – Physician Assistant  
**Hearing Date:** February 19, 2020  
**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Association of School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports *House Bill 497 – Education – School Physical Examinations – Physician Assistant*. This bill would permit physician assistants to complete the required physical examination that all students needs prior to entering a Maryland public school for the first time. More and more physician assistants are working as physician extenders side by side and under the supervision of physicians in primary care practices across the state. Completing physical examinations for school is well within the scope of practice of a physician assistant licensed in Maryland.

MASBHC supports this bill as it would ensure that students have greater access to obtaining a physical examination prior to starting school for the first time. This is especially important for students who move into Maryland mid-school year may not have a primary care provider who is a pediatrician or nurse practitioner.

As safety net providers, we know first-hand the difficulties some families experience in finding a pediatric care provider and the important role physician assistants play in order to provide health care services in both primary care and safety net provider settings. This bill will ensure that students can start school as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael Faulkner at [rfaulkner@policypartners.net](mailto:rfaulkner@policypartners.net) or (410) 693-4000.