



Date February 19, 2020

Committee: Ways and Means

Bill: House Bill 497 – Education – School Physical Examinations - Physician Assistant

Position: Support

House Bill 497 corrects an oversight of the initial legislation and impacts not just the health care of minors but also access to education, given that a physical exam must be completed, and an authorized form submitted when entering public school in Maryland for the first time.

As initially adopted, this statute omitted Physician Assistants by only authorizing physicians and nurse practitioners to complete the physical exam form. This proposed amendment adds physician assistants as approved health care providers for the purposes of the Maryland School Health Assessment Form.

There are three types of providers of medical care in Maryland: physicians, nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs). PAs are able to examine, diagnose, and treat patients of all ages and work in all manner of medical settings. Licensed by the Board of Physicians, PAs often provide medical care to patients who otherwise have limited access to services. Including PAs as authorized to complete this form will remove a barrier to access to health care for minors in Maryland.

We, as the only organization representing all PAs in the state of Maryland, FULLY SUPPORT House Bill 497.

Most sincerely,

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