

ROBBYN LEWIS
Legislative District 46
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 304
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3772 · 301-858-3772
800-492-7122 Ext. 3772
Fax 410-841-3341 · 301-858-3341
Robbyn.Lewis@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of House Bill 497

Education - School Physical Examinations - Physician Assistant

Dear Chair Kaiser and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

HB497 is a simple bill to include a licensed physician assistant among the health care providers allowed to complete a physical examination of a student entering the Maryland Public School System for the first time.

Current law provides that School Health Assessment examinations may only be completed by a physician or a certified nurse practitioner.

Physician assistants work directly with licensed physicians under a delegation agreement approved by the State Board of Physicians. Physician assistants often provide medical care to patients who have limited access to medical care. HB497 removes a barrier to access to health care for children in Maryland.

Physician assistants are an essential part of the healthcare team in Maryland, as they are licensed to examine, diagnose, and treat patients of all ages and work in all manner of medical settings in every jurisdiction in the state. This bill does not change or expand their current scope of practice.

This bill is supported by the Maryland Academy of Physicians Assistants, and it has the potential to expand wrap-around services for students across the state of Maryland.

I request a favorable report.