February 16, 2021

Chair Paul Pinsky
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB0523 State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists – Duties, Appointment of Members, and Requirements for Licenses

Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) represents the 450+ licensed audiologists who practice in the state of Maryland, and the patients they serve. The MAA's goal is to enhance the ability of members to achieve career and practice objectives by fostering professional autonomy, providing quality continuing education, and increasing public and consumer awareness of hearing and balance disorders and the value of audiologic services. By virtue of education and licensure, Audiologists are the most qualified professionals to manage hearing and balance disorders. An Audiologist is a state-licensed professional who specializes in evaluating, diagnosing, treating, and managing patients with hearing loss, tinnitus, and balance (vestibular) disorders. Audiologists work in a variety of settings: private practice offices, hospitals, medical centers, out-patient clinics, public and private schools, universities (teaching and research), regulatory agencies, large-scale research centers, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, the Veterans Administration, and the U.S. Military. Audiologists work closely with federal, state, and private third-party payers to optimize coverage of services provided for the evaluation and treatment of the patients in their care.

The MAA supports the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispenser, and Speech-Language Pathologists and their legislation, SB0523 and **requests your favorable report.**

Sincerely,

Sofia Roller, Au.D.
President, Maryland Academy of Audiology