



MARYLAND PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Bill: SB 952 – Health Occupations – Internship and Residency Training Requirements – Waiver for Former Service Members Injured in Combat

Position: **OPPOSED**

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the EHEA Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA) representing approximately 260 podiatrists licensed in Maryland, we respectfully request that you **OPPOSE SB 952**.

This bill requires health occupations boards to waive internship or residency training requirements for licensure, certification, or registration for a former service member who is disabled as a result of combat deployment.

Internship and residency training is where health professionals learn to perform the responsibilities and duties of their profession in a hospital/clinical setting. MPMA believes that internship and residency programs are an essential component of practicing and without it, could put the health and wellbeing of patients at risk.

MPMA encourages the General Assembly and the Health Occupation Boards to work together to identify the barriers for former service members injured in combat without waiving internship and residency requirements.

For these reasons, MPMA again respectfully requests that you **OPPOSE SB 952**. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact MPMA Executive Director Richard Bloch at richard@sbhpa.com.

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin J. Lewis, DPM, MS, FACFAS
President, MPMA