



# MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center

9000 Franklin Square Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21237  
443-777-7138 **PHONE**  
443-777-6319 **FAX**  
[www.medstarfranklin.org](http://www.medstarfranklin.org)

**Michelle Bahrain, D.O.**  
**Infectious Disease Consultant**  
**Franklin Square Hospital Center**

**Clinical Instructor**  
**Johns Hopkins University**

Senate Bill 311

HB 790

2/3/22

Senator Pinsky and Delegate Pendergrass,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my podiatric colleagues in Maryland. As an introduction, I am an infectious disease physician who has practiced at several locations in the state over the past 16 years. Currently, I am employed at MedStar Franklin Square Hospital in Baltimore.

I have a long history of working with podiatrists at my institution. I am proud to say that I have learned a great deal from them and consider them an essential part of a multidisciplinary team at our hospital. Given the severe foot infections we often see; we have a limb salvage team. This team includes podiatry, vascular, plastics, and infectious disease. We physicians all contribute our expertise in attempt to save the limbs and lives, if possible, of these very fragile patients.

When I graduated from my fellowship, I had some gaps in my training, as I initially wanted to do transplant infection. I started my work at Hopkins and then transitioned to private practice. I cannot tell you how invaluable the podiatrists were to me when I first started in private practice. My learning curve was a little steep the first year, as I saw many of these diabetic patients. However, the podiatrists at Franklin took me "under their wing" and taught me so much. They explained their surgical techniques so I could understand and always touched base with me regarding our mutual patients. In addition, we often rounded together on follow up patients. In this way, I became comfortable managing these patients in no time.

I believe that podiatrists are highly trained surgeons and an integral part of the health care team and that the title of podiatric physician is long overdue in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bahrain, D.O.

Knowledge and Compassion  
**Focused on You**