

February 8, 2022

**Bill: SB 311- Health Occupations- Podiatric Physicians**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Vincent Martorana and I have practiced podiatric medicine and surgery in our great State of Maryland since 1978.

I'd like to share with you that as a medical professional we serve side-by-side with our MD and DO physician colleagues. Not only at bedside providing patient care but also serving on hospital committees. In fact, it was an orthopedic surgeon that initially nominated me to the Medical Executive Committee (MEC) as well as recommending Podiatric Surgery be a section independent of Orthopedic or General Surgery.

Frankly, I have never felt that I was considered anything other than a podiatric physician. I was recently amused when I came across a copy of my commencement address to my classmates nearly 45 years ago in which I used precisely the same term, podiatric physician. "Physician" is a term that 36 States currently use to describe Doctors of Podiatric Medicine, yet Maryland lags behind.

We serve with our MD/DO colleagues in the roles of:

*Physician* Members of hospital Medical Executive Committees (MEC)  
Section Chiefs of our Divisions

Chief of Staff / President of the medical staff, a position elected to by *physician* colleagues

*Physician* Chair and Members of virtually every hospital committee including those that oversee peer review, disciplinary actions and privileging of all physicians.

*Physician* members on hospital Board of Directors

Even *Physician* Chair of the Board of Directors at a Baltimore Community teaching hospital

*Physician* member on the Board of MedStar Health, and their Quality, Safety and Professional Affairs Committee

*In fact, one of our podiatric colleagues is Chair of the Department of Surgery at MMGH and oversees ALL SURGEONS on staff.*

We respectfully request this committee approve the change in designation of podiatrist to podiatric physician as to more accurately reflect our education, training, and experience to the public.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your support for SB 311.

Sincerely,

Vince Martorana, DPM

