



Maryland Academy of Audiology

P.O. Box 710

Parkville, MD 21234

<http://maaudiology.org/>

January 21, 2022

Chair Paul Pinsky  
Miller Senate Office Building, Room 2W  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB103 State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Revisions  
Position: **FAVORABLE with Amendment**

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) represents the more than 500 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<sup>1</sup>. 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 including, but not limited to private practices, hospitals, medical centers, universities (teaching and research), the Veterans Administration, and the U.S. Military and 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 is **favorable with amendment** on SB103- Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispenser, Speech-Language Pathologists, Music Therapist – Revisions. The mission of the Board is to enhance the quality of the hearing and speech health care provided to the citizens of Maryland by ensuring qualified and competent audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, and speech-language pathologists are licensed to practice in the State of Maryland.<sup>2</sup> The Board is comprised of professionals and two (2) consumer members to ensure the safety of patients/consumers; however, SB103 does not require a consumer member of the Board be present for a quorum to do business. Consumers are vital in the Board composition and provide a critical perspective that cannot always be obtained from the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.maaudiology.org/about/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://health.maryland.gov/boardsahs/Pages/about.aspx>



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professionals; therefore, a consumer should be included in all Board quorums. **The MAA requests an amendment to include 'A CONSUMER'** when defining a quorum. **[Page 2, line 6.]**

Thank you for considering this amendment which will help guarantee that consumers continue to play a role in the Board's actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D.

Legislative Chair

Maryland Academy of Audiology