

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Senator Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Senate Education, Health &  
Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West Senate Miller Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 626 – Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and  
Physical Assistants – Alterations  
Support

Dear Chair Pinsky:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA), the organization that represents the more than 3,000 practicing PAs in the state. We were honored to be part of the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program (MLARP) work group.

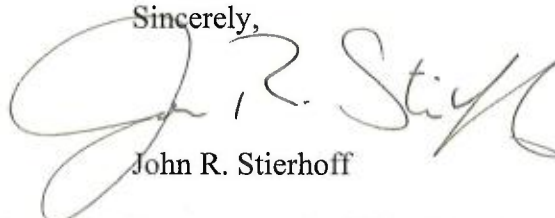
During the 2021 Session, we supported changes to this program which provides loan repayment options for physicians and PAs in underserved areas.

MdAPA fully endorses the recommendations of the workgroup.

Never has the need for qualified health providers been so apparent. The pandemic only further exposed the gaps we have in providing high-level care to all Marylanders, especially those in rural and underserved areas. Without an increased and reliable source of funding, we remain at a competitive disadvantage to those states with more robust programs, not to mention we are potentially leaving matching federal dollars on the table.

Thank you for your support of Senate Bill 626 and this effort to further expand and strengthen this program.

Sincerely,



John R. Stierhoff

cc: Members, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee