

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Robbyn Lewis

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 24, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 830 – *State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Physician Members – Repeal*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **opposes** House Bill 830.

This legislation would target the removal of the two physician members of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists (Board).

MedChi does not see the need for this legislation. Otolaryngologists, commonly referred to as ear, nose, and throat physicians, are the physician specialty that serves on the Board. These physicians bring needed perspective to the Board on collaborative care and provide input on regulatory and policy matters. Following the passage of legislation nearly 20 years ago, the physician members of the Board cannot weigh in on scope of practice matters, so any allegation that they interfere in this area rings hollow.

It is MedChi's understanding that at least 25 states have physician representation on their boards of audiology and speech language pathologists, so Maryland's current structure is by no means an anomaly.

For these reasons, MedChi requests that the Committee oppose House Bill 830.

For more information call:

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