

February 11, 2022

Bill: HB 790- Health Occupations- Podiatric Physicians

Position: SUPPORT

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

My name is Dr. Vincent Martorana and I have had the privilege to practice podiatric medicine and surgery in our great State of Maryland since 1978.

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 as a **physician member** of 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'd like to share with you some of the roles we play in addition to patient care.

Kindly take note of how many times I use the word **physician**.

We serve as **Physician** Members of hospital Medical Executive Committees

Our **physician** colleagues have elected us to serve as their Medical Staff President or Chief of Staff.

We also serve as **Physician** Chairs and **physician** members on virtually every hospital committee including those that oversee peer review, disciplinary actions and the granting and removal of privileges of all **physicians** and allied health care providers.

Physician members on hospital Board of Directors

Or how about this? It was a podiatrist that was the first **physician** Board Chair at one of the State's Major Health System's hospitals.

In fact, one of our members is the current **Chair of the Department of Surgery (at MedStar Montgomery General Hospital) and oversees ALL SURGEONS on staff.**

Last year, one of my MD colleagues sent me his copy of Med Chi's

“End of Session Update”. A newsletter Med Chi sent to their membership. After reading it I was quite disturbed and understand why some MD/DO physicians would be opposed to the change of our designation. I would like to read it for you, word for word.

Podiatry Bill “We killed a measure in the Senate that would have allowed podiatrists to call themselves physicians. This victory is particularly gratifying, given that the federal government and thirty-six other states allow this to occur”.

This characterization is grossly misleading to their membership, we never asked to be referred to as physicians, but rather Podiatric Physicians.

Kindly take note of the letters of support provided by our physician colleagues and hospital administrators.

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

Thank you.

Dr. Vincent Martorana