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Briana Bruno Holtan, Au.D.  
Mikayla Abrams, Au.D.  
Lindsay Dennison, Au.D.  
Leslie Gilbert, Au.D.  
Jennifer Kincaid, Ph.D.



Jessica Kreidler, Au.D.  
Angela Lowe, Au.D.  
Niki Razeghi, Au.D.  
Corinne Richards, Au.D.  
Maeve Salanger, Au.D.

February 21, 2022

Chair Shane E. Pendergrass  
House Office Building, Room 241  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB0830 State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Physician Members – Repeal

Position: **SUPPORT**

Madam Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Peña-Melnyk, and Committee Members,

As a licensed practicing audiologist for over 24 years and a small business owner of one of the largest and oldest private practices in the State of Maryland, I would like to express my support for the removal of the two ear, nose, and throat (ENT) physicians from the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists. I have worked in a variety of audiology practice settings over the years and have been employed by an ENT physician in the past. I currently have 11 office locations in Maryland including the Eastern Shore. 3 of our offices share space with ENT physicians. I feel strongly that we do not need oversight from the ENT profession on our State Board of Examiners.

The attendance of the ENT physicians to the Board of Examiners meeting is horrendous for a professional Board. I held numerous executive board positions for the Maryland Academy of Audiology from 1998 to 2011. There was only a 52% attendance record at that time and since then it has not been much better. More recently, three emergency virtual hearings were held during the 2021 Maryland legislative session and the physicians only attended 50% of them and missed one critical emergency hearing completely.

The licensing board should consist of only those professionals whom it governs and our board does not oversee the physicians. In addition, the licensing board is responsible for ensuring that the audiologists and other health professionals completed all education and training requirements to practice at their full scope of practice. Although I have great respect for ENT physicians and work collaboratively with them on a weekly basis, the ENT physicians do not receive the same training as non-physician providers therefore there is no need to receive education from them in order for us to do our work. Their presence does not enhance the quality of the hearing and balance healthcare that I provide to the Maryland consumers.

Thank you for support of HB0830 legislation.

Sincerely,

Briana Bruno Holtan, Au.D.  
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February 22, 2022

Chair Shane E. Pendergrass  
House Office Building, Room 241  
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Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB0830 State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Physician Members – Repeal  
Position: **SUPPORT**

Madam Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Peña-Melnyk, and Committee Members,

As an audiologist working in Maryland, I am in full support of removing otolaryngologists (ENTs) from the Maryland Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists. Removing ENTs from the board would allow us as audiologists to have more autonomy to practice to the full scope of our profession. Our clinical doctorate degree (Au.D.) gives us the necessary clinical skills and education to be able to practice without oversight from ENTs. Although our field does require multi-disciplinary collaboration with other medical professionals including ENTs, primary care physicians, optometrists, physical therapists, nurse practitioners, and speech-language pathologists (just to name a few), oversight from an ENT is not necessary for us to perform our jobs. Having previously practiced in Texas at a large ENT practice, I see the benefit of practicing in a state without the oversight of an ENT on the board. The cross-discipline collaboration was still present, despite the absence of an ENT on the board. Texas along with 23 other states do not have an ENT on the board and I strongly believe this should be the standard in Maryland as well.

Thank you for support of HB0830 legislation.

Sincerely,

Nikita Razeghi, Au.D.  
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