

FAMILY FOOT & ANKLE

ASSOCIATES OF MARYLAND

MICHAEL J. FRANK, D.P.M.
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February 11, 2022

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 790 Podiatric Physician

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee,

This is my written support in the passing of HB 790 which will change the title within the State of Maryland of a Podiatrist to a Podiatric Physician.

My name is Adam Lowy and am currently the President-Elect of the Maryland Podiatric Medical Association. I'm a lifelong Baltimorean living in Howard County and in private practice in Montgomery & Prince George's county.

Currently across the country, 36 other states recognize Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.) with the term "Physicians" within their title. Some of these titles are Podiatric Medicine, Physicians who Practice Podiatric Medicine, Physician of the Foot & Ankle or Physician of the Foot and Leg.

A name change to Podiatric Physician is a true representation of that vast scope of knowledge and training that which deserves of including the name physician in our title. The name change is also a better reflection of our broad acceptance in the medical community. D.P.M.s hold executive positions among hospital boards, chair committees, as well as Chiefs of surgery. Our profession has worked very hard to educate the community, medical and abroad, that we are doctors of the highest respect, credentials, and training that allows us to work side by side with allopathic and osteopathic doctors. While allied health professions such as Physician Assistants, Dentists, or Chiropractors have respect among the community, they do not hold such positions within hospital administration.

Podiatrists undergo a training model that is **equivalent** to allopathic and osteopathic clinicians. Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.) complete **4** years undergraduate school, a **4** year podiatric medical school, and finally a **3** year hospital based residency. This is standard among all podiatrists, a 4-4-3 model.

Podiatrists are also required in the state of Maryland to have **more** post-graduate training in order to be licensed in Maryland than our allopathic/osteopathic colleagues. While M.D. and D.O are require to only have 1 year of residency, podiatrists are required to have 2 years. However, the standard being 4-4-3 among all DPMs in school, this goes above and beyond the states minimum requirements.

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A title change to Podiatric Physician creates a better representation to the public of the type of specialty we are. In fact, Podiatrists are both surgeons and physicians of the foot and ankle. The name to Podiatric Physician bill better represents the training, experience, and skill sets that doctors of podiatric medicine have created for our patients as well as among the rest of the medical community.

I look forward to having the support of the Chair and its Committee Delegates in support of HB790.

Sincerely,

Adam Lowy, DPM
MPMA President-Elect

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