

**SB 674 – Physician Assistants – Parity with Other Health Care Practitioners  
(Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2023)**

**Support Testimony of Richard Burch**

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**Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,**

**I ask that you vote in favor of SB 674. My Name is Richard Burch and I have been practicing as an Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant (PA) in Maryland since 2007. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to serve as President, now Past President of the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA). While holding these positions within MdAPA, numerous PAs within the state of Maryland have expressed concerns about the administrative burdens and arbitrary rules that restrict PAs their ability to serve their patients. Parity with other licensed providers is essential to the delivery of healthcare especially in underserved areas. PAs are very well trained to provide excellent medical care within their training and experience, however, are limited by the unfortunate exclusion of PA in laws regarding Physicians and Nurse Practitioners.**

**Voting in favor of SB 674 will:**

- Reduce unnecessary delays in care, the inability for PAs to sign documents required for their patients.**
- Reduce cost of care created by the additional visits and redundancy in office visits to see multiple providers**
- Eliminate the hospital administrative confusion when PA, Physician and NP are hired in the same department to do the same job but PA are the only providers with arbitrary restrictions.**

**To continue to burden PAs and health systems with regulations that are inconsistent with other surrounding states and the rest of the country is contradictory to the effort to expand access to care.**

**In closing, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to highlight our profession and would strongly encourage your support of SB 674.**