

Hearing Date: March 14, 2023

Committee: Finance

Bill: [SB673 – Physician Assistants - Revisions \(Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2023\)](#)

Position: SUPPORT (Favorable)

This is a letter in **Support of SB 673- PA Modernization Act.**

I recently accepted the position as Department Chair and Program Director of the Frostburg State University Physician Assistant (PA) Program. I started in December 2023, and I live and work in Hagerstown. I have been licensed to practice starting in 2000 in the states of Hawaii, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and my application is in process for Maryland. I am in current negotiations to work part time in Urology for Frederick Health System. They are short two urologists and they were attracted to my application because of my extensive training and procedural skills obtained while I was active duty Navy for 8 ½ years followed by clinical practice as a School of Medicine Senior Associate in Urologic Surgery at Vanderbilt University for 11 years. I have performed multiple procedures including cystoscopy, circumcision, prostate biopsy, vasectomy, urodynamics, ultrasound, and first-assisted in the operating room. I have had privileges in multiple facilities and states during my 25 year career and I have never had to complete an additional process at the state like I have to today in the state of Maryland. My clinical practice has always been governed at the local level. They verify my credentials and my education and training to conduct procedural care, similar to the process conducted for a physician. That is not the case in Maryland. The state of Maryland inserts itself in the middle unlike other states.

My current obstacle to starting a clinical practice is centered around the barriers due to the current practice act in Maryland. The language around “delegation agreement” and “core privileges” are presenting a barrier to getting hired and starting clinical practice. I’m certain that what I’m experiencing is exactly the challenges our graduates at Frostburg State University encounter. My understanding is the original justification for the program here in Hagerstown was the State of Maryland wanted a PA Program in Western Maryland to address the prominent healthcare disparities that plague the western counties in the state. The program is about to graduate the 3rd class of 25 students in May. Graduates are very sensitive to the ability to practice unencumbered, especially by antiquated statues. Our graduates have the ability to practice in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, by driving no more than 20 minutes from campus. This generation is very savvy at evaluating state laws related to PA practice and it is part of the curriculum as well.

In essence, this bill modernizes PA practice to be in alignment with adjacent states. Removing this antiquated barrier will be beneficial to the Western Maryland residents that our graduates care for as evidenced by a letter of support for this bill by Frostburg State University.

The Frostburg State University PA Program appreciates the fiscal support provided to the program, students, and graduates, and I, as a private citizen ask the Senate modernize the PA Act and pass this bill out of committee for a vote on the floor as a sign of support for Western Maryland residents, PA graduates who practice here, and as a show of good faith to encourage our future graduates to stay and practice in the state.

As an aside, as a veteran I get thanked for my service every time I use my veteran discount at Lowes or Home Depot. I appreciate the 10% discount, but as a disabled veteran of a foreign war serving the Marine Corps, you can thank me personally by removing unnecessary barriers to practicing as a PA to the full extent of my training.

Sincerely,

Todd

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