

Dear Honorable Maryland Senators,

My name is Stefanie Boecher, and I am a Physician Assistant. I am writing to you today to inform you of my concern regarding the laws around the Physician Assistant Delegation Agreement.

I work for a large hospital corporation that includes 9 hospitals, and many outpatient offices. My department has a team of 4 Physician Assistants and 15 Nurse Practitioners. Due to current laws, Physician Assistants require a Delegation Agreement, Nurse Practitioners do not, even though we both have a Master's Degree education. Our department has experienced significant turnover in the Medical Director position, which is the position that usually fills the Supervising Physician role. In order for a Physician Assistant to change their Supervising Physician, they must apply for the change on the Maryland Board of Physician's website and pay a \$200 fee. Every time we lose a Medical Director an Interim Medical Director steps in. Nothing needs to be done for the Nurse Practitioners, but the Physician Assistants must apply for a new Delegation Agreement and pay the \$200 fee. Once the new Medical Director is hired the Physician Assistants again must apply for a new Delegation Agreement and pay another \$200 fee. The Physician Assistants on my team have had to complete this process 4 times in the past 3 years. This has nothing to do with their education, competency, or ability to successfully complete their job. This has everything to do with a law that requires additional paperwork, fees and potentially inhibits the Physician Assistant's ability to care for their patients. The extra cost and additional paperwork are also a deterrent to the hiring leadership team. Considering that we may continue to see turnover in our Medical Director position, it is less desirable to hire Physician Assistants than Nurse Practitioners as this Delegation Agreement requirement makes Physician Assistants less cost-efficient.

In my opinion, the laws regarding Delegation Agreements are not conducive to the current medical models. While in the past most outpatient offices were privately owned and hospitals were silos in their community, larger corporations have stepped in and created large medical networks. Our laws need to change to meet the demands of these new models. Some suggestions for updating the laws would be to remove the requirement for Delegation Agreements entirely for Physician Assistants or to allow a group of physicians to be named as the Supervising Physician(s) instead of a single provider. Either of these options would prevent unnecessary paperwork and limit to a patient's access to care. I ask that you please consider these options and change the way these laws are written.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to seeing a positive outcome from this request!

Sincerely,

Stefanie Boecher, MSPAS, PA-C