



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Damean W.E. Freas, D.O., Chair

2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: HB0722
TITLE: Physician Assistants – Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners
(Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2023)
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Letter of Support

TITLE: Physician Assistants – Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners (Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2023)

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Support for House Bill HB0722 Physician Assistants – Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners (Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2023).

This proposed legislation seeks to include Physician Assistants in specific articles of law relating to health care practitioners who may undertake certain actions such as the guardianship of disabled persons, admission of individuals to mental health facilities, the Emergency and Allergy Treatment Program, the Attendant Care Program, and petitions for extreme risk protective orders; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to cover charges related to examinations by a physician assistant for certain emergency evaluatees; exempting physician assistants from the Maryland Pharmacy Act; altering the membership and duties of the Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunization; altering the membership of a certain workgroup formed by the Maryland Health Care Commission.

The purpose of House Bill 722 is to add Physician Assistants to existing lists of practitioners who are allowed to perform certain acts. The Board has previously interpreted laws that concern the practice of medicine to include Physician Assistants, but did not believe that it was authorized to interpret laws that specifically refer to Physicians to also include Physician Assistants. The Board believes that the prior exclusion of Physician Assistants in these articles of law was an oversight and should be corrected to include Physician Assistants. It is important to note that this bill does not alter current Board practices or operations.

Therefore, the Board respectfully requests that the committee votes favorably on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact for more information, contact:

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Maryland Board of Physicians
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Maryland Board of Physicians
(410) 764-3786

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damean W. E. Freas".

Damean W. E. Freas, D.O.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

The opinion of the Boards expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.