



Lisa Ann Plowfield, PhD, RN

Dean

College of Health Professions
8000 York Road
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March 14, 2023

Re: Senate Bill 674 Physicians Assistants-Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners
(Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2023) and Senate Bill 673 Physician Assistants-Revisions
(Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2023)

House Health and Government Operations Committee

March 6, 2023

Support

Chairwoman Griffith, Vice Chairwoman Klausmeier, and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to you today to express my support for SB 674 – Physician Assistants – Parity with other Health Care Practitioners, and SB 673 – Physician Assistants – Revisions. These bills will focus on collaboration registration and eliminate a delegation agreement reflecting the current practice with interdisciplinary healthcare teams. These bills are subject to, but not limited to allowing the scope of PA (Physician Assistant) practice to be based upon a PA’s education, training, experience, and competencies. These changes will move away from a “supervision” scenario to describe the nature of the PA working relationship with physicians and replace it with “collaboration.”

Physician Assistants are licensed clinicals who practice medicine in all medical settings. The PA profession has more than 168,000 practitioners in the U.S., engaging in more than 500 million patient interactions each year. With the amount of patient care needed, the healthcare delivery system is undergoing a transformation, and interprofessional team-based care is the new standard; it is this standard to which we educate our students. A collaborative practice will replace a delegation model with a collaboration model where PAs can interact and refer to the appropriate healthcare team.

The changes proposed by this legislation will help community health centers, hospitals, health systems, group and private practices by giving them the flexibility to form healthcare teams that best meet patient and family needs. Nothing in these bills will prohibit employers from continuing to hire and manage PAs in whatever manner they deem necessary to ensure patient health and safety. Due to the high demand for accessible and equitable health care throughout Maryland, I am in support of legislation that allows providers to practice to the fullest extent of their education and licenses. Interprofessional collaboration is key in any health care related setting in which it allows not only flexibility and growth within a healthcare system, but the ability to help more patients throughout the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Ann Plowfield".

Lisa Ann Plowfield, PhD, RN

Dean