

**Hearing Date:** March 6, 2023

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

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

**Position:** SUPPORT (FAV)

This is a letter in **Support of SB 673 - PA Modernization Act of 2023**.

My name is Hanna Dennis and I have been practicing as a PA for 12 years, 5 ½ years in Maryland. I work in outpatient Family Practice in rural St. Mary's County. In my time as a PA, I have had the privilege of serving the Spanish speaking population in Texas, working in occupational health in South Carolina, and am now working in a medically underserved area in southern Maryland. I entered the medical profession with a desire to support and educate underserved populations.

I graduated from UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas with a thorough and well-rounded education. I was well prepared for working in my primary care field and received additional on the job training and instruction as I went. As such, I have been able to work as a capable member of the medical team in my current role in Family Practice. Because of my experience, I am able to work in a setting that allows me to collaborate and communicate with my supervising physician without him needing to be on site. While this has allowed for significant improvement in access to care for my patients in such a rural setting, current Maryland PA law has created some unintended barriers to me being able to practice to the full extent of my training. Because of the distinction made between core duties and advanced duties, there are skills that I have acquired in my schooling and subsequent on the job training that I am unable to utilize in my current practice. Because I am in an underserved area, I am practicing in a different physical location than my supervising physician, making it prohibitive for him to observe me for the required number of observed procedures in order for me to apply for advanced duties. The Physician Assistant Modernization Act is working to remove language separating core duties from advanced duties and allowing decisions regarding provider capability to be made at the practice level. This would still ensure proficiency of skill while allowing for different practice environments. The goal is to allow providers to utilize what they have learned in order to increase access to care that patients so desperately need.

Maryland is the only state in the surrounding area (to include Delaware, DC, Virginia, and West Virginia) where Scope of Practice is not allowed to be determined at the practice site or that makes a distinction between core and advanced duties. I am requesting support of SB 673 to allow us to practice on par with our neighboring states and help improve access to care in the state of Maryland. Thank you for your consideration.