

Hearing Date: March 14, 2023

Committee: Finance

Bill: [SB674 – Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners \(Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2023\)](#)

Position: SUPPORT (Favorable)

This is a letter in **Support of SB 674- Parity with other Health Care Practitioners (Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2023)**. As the education and training of various practitioners in the medical and mental health world has been recognized by the state, the pool of providers who are able to perform certain duties has expanded. This growth unfortunately has not included physician assistants (Pas) with these lists of providers who are eligible to perform tasks, likely related to the fact that Pas are recognized as dependent practitioners.

While Pas do not train similar as physicians, our education and training is based on the medical model and rigorous. We diagnose conditions, provide consultation in various subspecialties and referrals as necessary, order laboratory and imaging studies as well as interpret the results, and prescribe medications. We are licensed and nationally certified healthcare providers. Yet we are not able to complete paperwork or submit orders for certain items that are well within our scope of practice. The parity act seeks to rectify the situation by including Pas wherever physicians and nurse practitioners are listed within existing Maryland regulations.

I hope that the members of this committee **support SB 674**. It is very important that we, as Pas are on par with other licensed healthcare providers that provide very complex medical care. With the passage of the act, there will be no change to our rigorous education requirements, national board certification process, or continuing education obligations. We will remain the highly trained, collaborative members of health care teams as we have been since 1967. We are simply asking to be able to perform expanded duties in the practice of medicine in the state of Maryland.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be any further assistance.



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