

Hearing Date: March 6, 2023

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Bill: [HB722 – Physician Assistants - Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners \(Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2023\)](#)

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

This is in **Support of HB 722- PA Parity Act of 2023.**

Good Afternoon Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for a couple of minutes in support of HB 722.

My name is Robert Swanson, and I've been working as a Physician Assistant for more than 25 years, and I recently retired from active duty with the Commissioned Corps of the USPHS. I've had the privilege of serving medically underserved populations for the majority of my career. These are the groups I've served: Federally incarcerated patients, rural FQHC and school-based health clients, rural primary & urgent care patients, geriatric clients, Native American patients, Border Patrol detainee clients, and active-duty military mental health patients (those with: traumatic brain injuries, co-occurring mental health diagnoses, and active-duty inpatient addiction medicine).

Reasons I support HB 722:

- The Bill will allow PAs to provide better access to care for underserved populations in their own "neighborhoods".
- It will allow PAs in MD to provide signatures for their patients on occupational and certain other forms (Federal & State), in order that patients can have better continuity of care. Thus, reducing redundant signature activities for patients.
- It will allow PAs to be listed as "Medical Professionals". And, since PAs were and are trained by Physicians in the "Medical Model", "Medical Professional" is appropriate.
- The Bill will allow parity with other medical providers, which assists patients to maintain confidence in their primary care PAs.
- It will allow PAs to form more effective collaborative relationships with their Supervising Physicians.
- Lastly, it will greatly reduce the administrative burden for medical practices to hire Physician Assistants for service.

Maryland's current PA practice laws are now unfortunately lagging behind Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, perhaps limiting PA's abilities to enhance patient access to care in their own neighborhoods. Beneficial goals of legislation would be to allow PAs to help their clients by practicing at the safest and highest levels of their education, training and experience.

Thank you for your support of HB 722.

I look forward to joining a practice setting in Maryland without posing an undue administrative burden on them to hire me as a Physician Assistant.

Again, many thanks for your time and consideration.

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