

**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 a letter in **Support of HB 722- PA Parity Act of 2023.**

My name is Jennifer Barnett, MPAS, PA-C, and have been practicing as a Physician Assistant for over 20 years in hospital medicine. I have been in leadership at both MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center and MedStar Harbor Hospitals and served for years on the Board of the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants. I am proud to provide high-quality team-based care in collaboration with my physician colleagues.

HB 722 is essential to provide Physician Assistant Parity to practice in Maryland. In my work as a hospital medicine PA there are times, I see patients who are suicidal, or mentally unsafe to leave the hospital. Under current law, I cannot be the second provider to certify a patient for involuntary admission even if recommended by the psychiatrist. Almost weekly I must spend a significant amount of time, often urgently to prevent patients from leaving Against Medical Advice unsafely, obtaining a signature from a physician who may not have otherwise been involved in this patient's care. I have decades of experience in acutely managing medical and psychiatric concerns. Having served as the patient's provider over time while collaborating with the psychiatry team, I am in the best position to effectively advocate for my patient and should be able to sign for involuntary admission based on my education and experience.

Please support HB 722 and improve access to care, decrease administrative burden, and allow physician assistants to collaborate with physicians, and hospital systems.

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