



10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Ste 910, Columbia, MD 21044. Office 410-992-4258. Fax: [410-992-7732](tel:410-992-7732). www.marylandpsychology.org

March 13, 2023

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President

Rebecca Resnick, PsyD,

President-elect

Brian Corrado, PsyD

Past President

Linda McGhee, PhD, JD

Secretary

Tanya Morrel, PhD

Treasurer

Melinda Capaldi, PsyD

Representatives-at-large

Jessica Rothstein, PsyD
Andrea Chisolm, Ph.D.

Representative to APA Council

Peter Smith, PsyD

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, PhD

Diversity

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

Early Career Psychologist

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

Educational Affairs

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

Ethics

Colleen Byrne, PhD

Legislative

Pat Savage, PhD

Membership

Linda Herbert, PhD

Professional Practice

Karin Cleary, PhD

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

OFFICER

Paul C. Berman, PhD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thomas Cote, MBA, CAE

Senator Melony G. Griffith, Chair
Senator Katherine A. Klausmeier, Vice-Chair
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB 673 Physician Assistants - Revisions (Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2023)
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the House Health and Government Operations Committee to **UNFAVORABLY report on SB 673.**

SB 673 makes a number of changes to the Physician Assistant scope of practice, including (see p. 9, lines 5-6) removing the prohibition to practice within the scope of psychology. **The MPA strongly opposes this bill, and this specific provision, in the stronger manner possible.**

MPA has strongly advocated for increased access to mental health services. **But allowing untrained practitioners to practice outside of the scope of their training and expertise is dangerous to the public.**

If physician assistants want to practice psychology then they need to comply with the existing licensing requirements for psychologists.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 673. If we can be of any further assistance as the Senate Finance Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativecommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs