

**Hearing Date:** March 6, 2023

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

**Bill:** [HB727- Physician Assistants – Revisions \(Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2023\)](#)

**Position:** SUPPORT (FAV)

Dear Delegates,

This is a letter in **Support of HB 727- PA Modernization Act of 2023**.

I am a Physician Assistant who has been an essential member of the collaborative team model in the state of Maryland since 2006. State regulations for the management of Physician Assistants began almost 40 years ago, and has had minimal change and modernization since. This was long before COVID and the “Great Physician Resignations of 2020”, which have now placed an unprecedented burden on our health care system and patient access to care.

***Now is the time*** to make the necessary changes to ease the burden on already strained physicians and our medical system. In 2021, similar versions of the PA Modernization Act were passed in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia, just to name our neighboring states. Since 2019, 11 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislative changes for PA modernization. It is long overdue and the time for Maryland to make the change and pass these proposed bills is now so we can continue to provide quality care to our community, your constituents, friends and family.

In 2022, ***I personally cared for over 5700 patients*** between my offices located in Bel Air and Havre de Grace, with ***approximately 40% of these appointments insured by Medicaid, Maryland state managed health care programs, Medicare and Tricare***. In primary care and specialties such as dermatology, physician shortage is a true problem and the passing of this legislation will allow me to continue providing high quality care to the residents of Harford County, some of whom are your neighbors, family and loved ones. Currently, I am overbooked with new patients and am working diligently to make more appointments available. As you can imagine, without the passing of this legislation, many providers like myself, will be seeking employment in our neighboring states, resulting in a compounding issue across all medical practices of Maryland and Harford County that employ Physician Assistants.

For this reason, I **Support of HB 727- PA Modernization Act of 2023** and you should too!

Jenifer Abbott, MS, PA-C  
Tideway/Anne Arundel Dermatology  
Bel Air/Havre de Grace, MD