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March 2, 2023

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House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB 727 Physician Assistants - Revisions

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 HB 727.**

HB 727 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 strongest 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 HB 727. If we can be of any further assistance as the Health and Government Operations Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@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