

**Hearing Date:** March 6, 2023

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

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

**Position:** SUPPORT (Favorable)

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

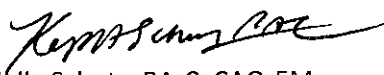
As a physician assistant (PA) for 24 years and a director overseeing over a hundred PAs providing emergency services for our Marylanders, I see the impact these outdated laws have on providing timely care to patients. Our current delegation agreements tie us to a specific primary physician and location. We have not been able to volunteer to give COVID vaccines, shift PAs from site to site, or volunteer our health services at summer camps. These are only a few of the examples where even though we were completely qualified (and sometimes overqualified) to perform a task that we are trained and licensed to do, we could not because of restrictive PA practice legislation. These regulations are not reflective of the way we practice medicine today, in collaboration with multiple professionals to provide the comprehensive care our patients need.

Physician assistants have standardized education and training across the country. We provide consistent, quality care. Our delineation of privileges for the hospital already outlines our scope of practice within our specialty as they do with our physicians. Procedures which require additional training are credentialed and supported by our hospital, yet sometimes arbitrary procedures seen as “advanced” vs. “core” duties by the board are subjected to a host of more paperwork. We are the only state in the country that differentiates between core and advanced duties and requires our PAs to submit this extra paperwork!

PAs maintain their own DEA, CDS and receive countless hours and continuing education in pharmacy. Physician names should not be required on PA prescriptions. Physicians should not be responsible for a prescription they do not actually write.

By utilizing collaborative registrations, we can continue to use our PA staff how, when and where we need them to best meet the needs of our patients. The PA Modernization Act fixes arbitrary and outdated administrative hurdles that affect physician assistants’ abilities to provide timely care for patients. Eliminating these unnecessary burdens on PAs, physicians, hospital systems, and other healthcare providers is urgently needed.

Thank you for your consideration supporting this bill!

  
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