

Theresa Neumann, PA-C  
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St. Leonard, MD 20685

**Date: March 2, 2023**

**Committee: Health and Government Operations**

**Bill: HB-722 Physician Assistant Parity Act  
HB-727 Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2023**

**Position: Support**

Honorable Madam Chair and HGO Committee Members,

I am asking you to support both HB 722 and HB 727 that are designed to modernize the PA practice statute and create an even playing field for PAs as they compete for jobs with other advanced healthcare providers.

As a former Director of Legislative Affairs and President of the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants, I have advocated for and experienced piecemeal advances to our practice statute over the past 22 years; however, even with appreciating these small victories, Maryland has steadily fallen behind all other states with respect to how PAs function in the healthcare workforce. We are a well-educated and well-trained profession that meets vigorous standards in order to practice medicine in collaboration with our physician partners. We value and treasure that relationship, and, ultimately, when maximized, that collaborative effort offers patients improved outcomes.

In times when we are facing healthcare shortages, we need to extend services to Maryland residents who need care, especially in underserved areas of the state. PAs can improve access to quality care and do so every day. They function in every field of medicine. Training is broad, as is the licensure/certification-maintenance process which allows PAs to mobilize to areas of need or choice. However, the antiquated laws governing practices that include verbiage such as “supervision” and distinction between “core” and “advanced duties”, as well as the processes by which these must be approved, delay hiring of PAs for months, prevent certain practices from hiring PAs, and restrict PA practice in specialties, especially in Dermatology. Dermatologic PAs are restricted by administrative laws that are found no where in current PA statute; they are single out as a unique entity, none of which was ever the intent of the statute revisions that occurred over the past 22 years.

Furthermore, with more PA-friendly neighboring states offering jobs to new PA graduates, Maryland is losing potential workforce. As a PA educator for the past 14 years, I can attest to rigors of the educational process, the strict standards to which all PA programs must comply, and

the quality of graduates from current state programs. I can also attest to the value we place in our physician and nurse practitioner colleagues, many of which share similar training.

Please support a positive change in Maryland and vote favorably for HB 722 and HB 727.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa Neumann", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Theresa Neumann, PA-C