

Hearing Date: March 6, 2023

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Bill: [HB722 – Physician Assistants - Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners \(Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2023\)](#)

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

Dear Delegates,

This is a letter in **Support of HB 722- PA Parity Act of 2023**.

I am practicing Physician Assistant in the state of Maryland since 2006. On numerous occasions, I have seen significantly reduced access to quality medical care that could be provided by Physician Assistants due to nonparity in state regulations. Nonparity has led to confusion for patients and employers, thus inhibiting our ability as part of a medical team, to provide consistent quality care to patients and decrease the burden on already stressed physicians.

According to the *The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections From 2019 to 2034* report released by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), **The nation faces a projected shortage of between 37,800 and 124,000 physicians within 12 years.**

American Medical Association (AMA) researchers found that more than 20% of active physicians will be 65 or older within the next decade and there aren't enough younger physicians coming in to replace them. Compounding this shortage is the expected increase in the U.S. population and the growing percentage of Americans who will be 65 or older.

In its biennial physician census, the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) reported that the median age of today's doctor is 51.7. More worryingly, the number of licensed physicians 60 and older climbed by 48% between 2010 and 2020, while the number of physicians under 50 grew only 16%.

Pending physician shortage and aging patient population is why we need licensed and qualified Physician Assistants in the state of Maryland to have parity with ***all other medical providers***. Maryland residents deserve access to care by ***ALL QUALIFIED HEALTH PROVIDERS***. Supporting this bill will ensure access to care for patients, job security for PAs and legislation that is par with our neighboring states like Virginia, DC, Delaware and West Virginia.

I SUPPORT **HB 722- PA Parity Act of 2023** and you should too!

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