



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
Office of the President

March 2, 2023

Honorable Madam Chair Joseline Pena Melnyk
Vice Chair Bonnie Collison
Committee Members
Maryland House of Delegates
Health and Government Operations Committee

RE: HBs 722 and 727 – Physician Assistants –with Other Health Care Practitioners (Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2023)

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) School of Pharmacy and Health Professions plays an intricate role in providing health care providers to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, which is federally designated as a Health Personnel Shortage Area and Medically Underserved Area.

Our newest Program, the UMES Physician Assistant (PA) Program is currently the only PA Program on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Our mission is to educate diverse and local students on the Eastern Shore, in hopes once they graduate they will join in the efforts to combat the health care shortage on the Eastern Shore.

Therefore, it is vital that our State support and remove barriers from practice in an effort to retain newly graduated physician assistants. The current State Laws do not foster recruitment or retaining new graduates, as it currently serves as an administrative barrier that delays and deters physician assistants from being hired and to be utilized to their fullest potential, in comparison to our neighboring States of Delaware and Virginia. The PA community is not looking to change their scope of practice or their relationship and collaborative partnership with the physician community.

In closing, the PA community seeks supportive legislation that will support the health care community to work with all members of the health care team and allow physician assistants to work to their fullest capacity. Allowing physician assistants to work at the top of their license will help to close gaps on access and health care equity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi M. Anderson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Heidi M. Anderson, Ph.D., FAPhA
President