

Oral Testimony on House Bill 727
Physician Assistants – Revisions (Physician Assistant Modernization Act 2023)
Position: Favorable

House Health & Government Operations Committee

Madam speaker and honorable members of the committee:

My name is Esther Cohen, a pioneer licensed physician assistant and president of the Maryland Association of Dermatology Physician Assistants. We support HB 727—Physician Assistant – Revisions (Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2023) we are asking for your vote in favor of HB 727.

PAs could be part of the solution to fulfill Maryland’s healthcare workforce shortage by removing the legislative barriers in the current law.

Maryland PA legislation is behind the times. Forty-one states and the District of Columbia allow the PA’s scope of practice to be decided at the practice level with collaborative agreement.

The PA profession in Maryland is at a critical point to keep pace with the rest of the country and be in a position to recruit and retain PAs. PAs are leaving for other states where legislative laws are more conducive where PAs can practice medicine in autonomy to their fullest ability of their experience, education and training.

Maryland should join the national movement to achieve and implement an improved statutory and regulatory environment for PAs to practice medicine by eliminating the delegation agreement, advanced duties and supervision. Move forward with “registration and collaborative agreement” as Maryland’s PA practice laws.

For all these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 727 Physician Assistant Modernization Act 2023.

Please refer to my written testimony submitted to the committee.

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