

February 20, 2024


TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF

HB806 / SB167 Physician Assistants - Revisions (Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2024) Health and Government Operations Committee Finance Committee

The University of Maryland, Baltimore is the state's health and law graduate campus, producing the majority of health professionals for the state. Since 2014 UMB has been actively engaged in educating PAs and I can speak personally to the quality of their education and clinical experience.

Our graduates have been working alongside of physicians, nurses, and other health professionals, across medical specialties providing high quality, compassionate care to patients throughout Maryland. Despite completing an accelerated, rigorous curriculum focused on the medical model and team-based approach, graduates seeking employment in Maryland are encountering delays in their ability to practice. These graduates, who are Maryland residents and now trained PAs, have found less administrative barriers in surrounding states and are seeking employment there. Meanwhile, patient access to care, particularly in primary care, women's health, behavioral health, underserved, and rural communities continue to suffer from unprecedented healthcare shortages in Maryland. The proposed legislation focuses on removal of these administrative barriers, which prolong the time for employment of well-trained, patient centric PAs, who can assist in improving patient access to care.

I ask that you support and enact this legislation on behalf of our patients, communities, and state.


Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
President