



School of Health Professions
Physician Assistant Program
16300 Old Emmitsburg Road
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

301-447-5121 | PHONE
paprogram@msmary.edu
msmary.edu

Hearing Date: February 20, 2024
Committee: Finance/HGO
Bill: SB0167 – Physician Assistants – Revisions (PA Modernization Act of 2024) Cross-filed:
HB0806
Position: SUPPORT (Favorable)

Good afternoon members of the Senate Finance and HGO Committees,

My name is **Mary Jackson**, and I am a physician assistant (PA), educator, and the **founding Program Director** of the PA Program in-development at **Mount St. Mary's University** located in **rural Emmitsburg of Frederick County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of SB0167 - Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2024 legislation put forth by the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA).

As a PA in Emergency Medicine caring for underserved patients for 15 years in Maryland, I can personally attest to the critical need for this act. First, without this act, we are creating unnecessary barriers to safe and effective patient care. Second, this bill supports the way that PAs and physicians already practice in collaborative teams. Third, PAs should be responsible for the care they deliver as with all other healthcare disciplines.

Our future graduates will be 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 **due to administrative barriers, such as central processing of delegation agreements**. These delays make it challenging for our graduates to compete with other advance practice providers (APPs) for vacant positions within the Maryland health systems. This hurts the profession.

PAs sometimes leave the state of Maryland due to these unnecessary administrative barriers. Maryland cannot afford to lose more providers. 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.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Maryland,

Mary Jackson, PA-C, CAQ-EM
Program Director, Physician Assistant Program
School of Health Professions, Mount St. Mary's University
mjackson@msmary.edu