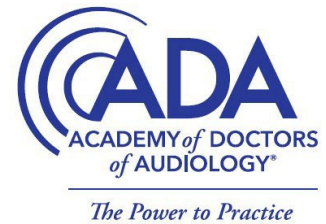


February 20, 2024



Chair Pamela Beidle
Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **SB 714** State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists - Appointment of Members
Position: **SUPPORT**

Madam Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Committee Members,

I write to you today on behalf of the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), a professional association representing audiologists in Maryland and across the United States, to strongly support and endorse SB 714.

As the only professional organization in Maryland exclusively dedicated to serving and advancing the profession of audiology, the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) and its leaders are uniquely qualified to nominate audiologists to the Board of Examiners (Board), because they have an in-depth understanding of the professional landscape necessary to ensure Board representation that is diverse, competent, and principled.

In 2019, the MAA and ADA co-located their annual conferences at the Gaylord National Harbor Resort. There, ADA members and leaders were able to experience first-hand the exemplary leadership, training, resources, and information that MAA delivers to its members and the patients they serve.

SB 714 aligns with the Board nomination process that the State of Maryland utilizes for other professions and would not prohibit individual audiologists from self-nominating, and MAA promotes the highest ethical standards and evidence-based practices in the delivery of hearing and balance healthcare services. Therefore, ADA urges swift passage and implementation of SB 714.

Please contact me at sczuhajewski@audiologist.org if I can provide additional information about the merits of SB 714 or be of service to you in any way.

Respectfully,



Stephanie Czuhajewski, MPH, CAE
Executive Director



11480 Commerce Park Drive tel 800-AAA-2336
Suite 220 fax 703-790-8631
Reston, VA 20191 www.audiology.org

February 14, 2024

Ms. Pamela Beidle, Chair
Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB0714 State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists - Appointment of Members
Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the American Academy of Audiology (the Academy) I am writing in support of SB0714. The Academy is the world's largest professional organization of, by and for audiologists. Representing the interests of audiologists in all practice settings, the Academy is dedicated to providing quality hearing care services through professional development, education, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders.

SB0714 would ensure that the state association solely devoted to representing the profession of audiology would have the responsibility of appointing or nominating qualified audiologists for the designated seats on the state Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech Language Pathologists and Music Therapists. This language would ensure that the Board would have a consistent pipeline of qualified candidates and would not preclude any individual audiologist from self-nominating themselves for consideration. This change would also align how audiology seat nominations are conducted with other professions that fall beneath the Board such as hearing aid dispensers and music therapists.

In conclusion, the Academy urges the passage of this common-sense legislation. If you have questions regarding this letter or information included herein, please contact Susan Pilch, Senior Director of Government Relations at spilch@audiology.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick E. Gallagher".

Patrick Gallagher, Executive Director



MARYLAND ACADEMY OF
AUDIOLOGY

February 20, 2024

Chair Pamela Beidle
Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **SB 714** State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists - Appointment of Members
Position: **SUPPORT**

Madam Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Academy of Audiology is comprised of audiologists licensed in the state of Maryland. The MAA provides counseling and advocacy to help members achieve career and practice objectives, offers an annual convention for audiologists to network and continue their education in the profession, sets standards for other states to follow, and provides resources to patients who are seeking hearing and balance healthcare. The MAA is the only state organization in Maryland that focuses only on the interests of audiologists and the patients they serve, thus most accurately understanding and representing the issues facing the profession and the interests of hearing and balance healthcare patients.

As a licensed Maryland audiologist, I am currently serving as the President of the Maryland Academy of Audiology and have served on the Board of Directors for the past 6 years. The Maryland Academy of Audiology has a long history of advocating at the state and national level for the rights of hearing and balance healthcare patients and audiologists. In recent years, the academy helped remove barriers to hearing healthcare, such as requiring notification to patients about “locked” hearing aids and allowing audiologists to directly prescribe hearing aids to their patients. The MAA’s actions have set an example for other states to achieve similar goals. I belong to and serve the MAA because I strongly feel the MAA’s unique position representing only audiologists allows for complete focus on the interests of hearing and balance healthcare.

There are numerous reasons that the Maryland Academy of Audiology should be the organization to nominate audiologists to open audiology seats on the Board of Examiners of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Music Therapists. The MAA:

- Only state organization representing only audiologists
- Most accurately understands and represents the issues facing the profession of audiology and the interests of hearing and balance healthcare patients.
- Ensures the Secretary of Health and the Governor have at least 3 qualified, professional audiologists for each open Board of Examiners audiology seat

Additionally, the legislation does not prohibit individuals from self-nominating to the Board of Examiners, and most importantly, mimics the nomination process of other providers on the Board.

Thank you for your support of SB 714 legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kincaid', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jennifer Kincaid, Ph.D.

President, Maryland Academy of Audiology