

HB 806/SB0167– Physician Assistants – Revisions (Physician Assistant
Modernization Act of 2024)

Support Testimony of **Mark Denzine DO**

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Good afternoon, members of the House and Senate Committee.

My name is Mark Denzine DO a Maryland licensed physician, working for Luminis Health in Annapolis, Maryland. I support the bill, HB 806/SB0167 - Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2024 legislation put forth by the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MDAPA).

As you know, Maryland is facing significant healthcare provider shortages. These shortages are placing undue pressure on the practicing providers and limiting patient's access to care, particularly within primary care, women's health, behavioral health, and underserved and rural communities. Physician assistants are trained on an accelerated medical model and a team-based approach, which includes collaboration with Physicians and other health professionals. The administrative barriers that exist when hiring PAs in Maryland, increase both the administrative and cost burden on hospitals, private clinics and all healthcare facilities. The proposed legislation focuses on the removal of these administrative barriers, which delay the employment and utilization of well-trained, compassionate PAs, who can assist in reducing the gap in access to care, as well as the unprecedented healthcare shortage.

Before medical school, I was a PA for 5 years. I know firsthand about the barriers faced by mid-level practitioners and the constant battle to level the playing field for these crucial providers. PA's fill a vital role in the medical community and serve to bridge the growing gap of medical access that our rural and urban communities experience on a daily basis. Please support this piece of legislation in support of improved patient care and access in Maryland.

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,

Mark Denzine DO



