



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	Senate Bill 167 – PA Modernization Act
Hearing Date:	February 20, 2024
Position:	Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 167 – Physician Assistant Modernization Act*. The bill will streamline the regulatory process for physician assistant (PA).

The Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers located across Maryland. We provide somatic, behavioral, and oral health care to underserved communities. All of our health centers are in health professional shortage areas, and we are facing increasing difficulty in recruiting primary care providers. We need to streamline the regulatory process for providers whenever possible. For PAs, it is a particularly onerous process. Since the Board of Physicians is required to review and approve advanced duties, our health centers report that:

- It is challenging to hire PAs when it is unclear what duties they will be approved to perform; and
- The delay of entry into practice is problematic. It keeps health centers from being able to utilize PAs for the range of care appropriate for PAs to provide. It delays getting PAs credentialed as part of provider panels, thus creating an administrative burden when supervising physicians have to review and authorize every claim.

MCHS supports this bill because it will improve access to care for Marylanders. We request a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.