



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 167 – Physician Assistant Modernization Act

Hearing Date: February 20, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Centers (MASBHC) supports *Senate Bill 167 – Physician Assistant Modernization Act*. The bill removes regulatory barriers to PA practice.

Maryland urgently needs to expand school-based health centers across Maryland to meet the needs of students for primary, behavioral health, and oral health services. Maryland increased the investment in school-based health centers under the Blueprint, but progress has been hampered by a shortage of primary care providers. PAs could be part of the solution for health professional shortages, but the current law governing PA practice is challenging. School-based health centers are often small with limited administrative resources. Because there are so many regulatory steps for PAs to be able to practice, it is difficult for many school-based health centers to navigate that system.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.