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February 23, 2024

Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **HB 464** Health Occupations - Practice Audiology - Definition
Position: **SUPPORT**

Madam Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Committee Members,

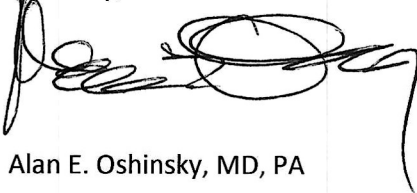
My name is Dr. Alan Oshinsky. I am a board certified and licensed otolaryngologist (ENT physician) in Maryland and Chief of the Division of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland. I have been in active, private, and academic full-time practice for over 37 years in Baltimore City with satellite offices in the surrounding Baltimore metropolitan area. I evaluate and treat patients of all ages with a strong emphasis in geriatrics. Hearing health is vital to all patients but, especially so in seniors. Medical literature in the past five to seven years has unequivocally confirmed a strong association between hearing loss and reduced quality of life in this population. I am writing to affirm my very strong support of HB 464. This bill will modernize the definition of audiology and improve access for all Marylanders.

Audiologists play a vital role in my ability to provide comprehensive ear, nose, and throat healthcare. Licensed audiologists in Maryland are required to earn a clinical doctorate degree (Au.D.) and their robust curriculum requires significant didactic and clinical training in the specialty of audiology and vestibular healthcare. Their degree and scope of education frequently exceeds that of other allied health providers including physician's assistants, nurse practitioners and optometrists. I heavily rely on Audiologists to evaluate, diagnose, manage, and treat my patients with hearing and balance disorders.

This valuable piece of legislation would modernize the scope of practice of audiologic healthcare in Maryland. When passed, my patients will benefit with better access and affordability for their hearing and vestibular healthcare as well as assist me in serving patients who I can best serve.

Thank you for your support of HB 464 legislation.

Sincerely,



Alan E. Oshinsky, MD, PA

Chief Division of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery

Mercy Medical Center