

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

Support Testimony of **Tara Toth**

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Good afternoon, members of the Senate and House Committees.

My name is **Tara Toth**, a Maryland licensed physician assistant, working for **University of Maryland Medical Center**. I support the bill, SB0167/HB 806 - 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 patients access to care, particularly within primary care, women’s health, behavioral health, 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 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.

PAs add tremendous value to medical practice. It has been harder to onboard due to cumbersome licensing, delegation agreements, and administrative barriers). Maryland has strict insurance requirements they create unnecessary oversight and paperwork. PAs are going to other states because it is easier to get jobs and they have less requirements to practice. Working in Baltimore City, there is a large population of underserved patients that need good healthcare. We need PAs more than ever to help bridge the gap for these patients.

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,

Tara Toth PA-C