

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

Support Testimony of Kelsey Cetrone

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Good afternoon, members of the Senate Committee.

My name is Kelsey Cetrone, a Maryland licensed provider, working for University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland. I support the bill, 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 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.

As a PA within my practice, our current supervising physician is stepping down and myself along with the other PA’s have to resubmit and repay the delegation agreement and fee that accompanies it with a new supervising physician. However, only a certain number of physicians can have PA’s assigned to them. I believe this impacts the decision for some supervisors to hire less PA’s within their practice.

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,

Kelsey Cetrone, PA-C