

**Committee:** HGO/Finance  
**Bill:** HB 806/SB0167- Revisions (Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2024)  
**Position:** SUPPORT (FAVORABLE)

To Chair Pena-Melnyk and Chair Beidle,

My name is Courtney Esworthy-Good and I am a recent Physician Assistant (PA) graduate in the state of Maryland working in emergency medicine. I am writing today to demonstrate my strong support of the bill SB0167. Currently, the practice laws in the state of Maryland for PAs are far behind surrounding states. I believe this bill is the first step to rectifying this disparity. Our current laws do not encompass the collaboration that truly occurs between PAs and other members of the healthcare team.


I currently work for MedStar in emergency rooms that span throughout Maryland and into D.C. While getting licensed in Maryland, it took well over 3 months for administrative paperwork, even though I had accepted the job offer even before I graduated. I was unable to start in a timely manner because of this huge delay. However, for D.C. it took half the time. I find this discrepancy abhorrent in the face of the severe healthcare shortages we are facing. We must fix the time it takes to onboard new PAs to begin their work more quickly.

Secondly, in the D.C. healthcare system, I can routinely document the collaboration I am taking part in with multiple physicians; however, in Maryland, I am restricted to a designated supervising physician on paper. This is a very inaccurate way of describing the true nature of my position, role, and patient care responsibility. In reality, I am collaborating with many different physicians and other health care professionals throughout many specialties to best care for my patients. The laws and regulations must be changed for patient and provider safety by opening this access to care.

All patients deserve timely and quality healthcare. Physician assistants are part of the answer to this problem. By changing these outdated laws, we can allow more PAs to remain in the state of Maryland for work to address these needs. Furthermore, we will increase the number of patients that are seen by qualified healthcare providers through examination of current laws and empowering care accessibility via hiring physician assistants.

I am very blessed to be able to provide for my patients. I can only hope the law may change so more PAs can take part in the Maryland system to provide necessary, qualified healthcare while also filling a gap of extreme healthcare shortages.

Best regards,

  
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