

# The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 508 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)

**Hearing Date:** February 11, 2025

**Position:** Support with Amendment

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The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants strongly supports *Senate Bill 508 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)*. The bill would require both private insurance and Medicaid to cover aesthetic and restorative services provided to assist certain survivors of domestic violence.

Domestic violence survivors primarily must rely on pro bono services to obtain cosmetic procedures to address scarring and other disfigurement caused by domestic violence.<sup>i</sup> As a result, many survivors must live with the physical signs of their abuse, which can be re-traumatizing.

We would request one clarifying amendment on who can determine which services are medically necessary. The bill limits the type of clinician who can determine which services are medically necessary. We recommend this provision be broadened as other types of providers, including physician assistants and dentists, also can also determine medical necessity and provide services, increasing access to care.

On page 3 in lines 26-27, strike “PHYSICIAN WHO IS LICENSED” and replace with “HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONER WHO IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE”

We ask for a favorable report with this amendment. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.jprasurg.com/article/S1748-6815\(21\)00649-5/fulltext](https://www.jprasurg.com/article/S1748-6815(21)00649-5/fulltext)