

Maryland State Society of Orthodontists

For Orthodontists, by Orthodontists

February 14, 2025

HB 573 / SB 792

Testimony in Support

My name is Dr. Natalie Miller. I am a Board-Certified Orthodontist, practicing in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties. I am the current President of the Maryland State Society of Orthodontists. Many of my colleagues are aware of the recent removal of online courses, especially Trapezio, as approved courses for orthodontic assisting. Trapezio is endorsed by the American Association of Orthodontists and a popular choice for many orthodontists, who own their own businesses and help form the backbone of the Maryland economy. It is not uncommon for an orthodontist to open a practice, become a part of the community and continue to practice for 40 years, while employing at least 8 to 10 staff members each year. Since COVID-19, we have seen an exodus of health care workers and the orthodontic industry continues to suffer, especially with the shortage of orthodontic assistants. The decrease in the number of approved programs, which is a reduction in spaces available for those interested in joining the profession, is a step backwards in workforce solutions, not forward. While we want to encourage Maryland residents to become orthodontic assistants, we need to reduce obstacles. Keeping established and highly respected online courses available is an important step. On behalf of the Maryland State Society of Orthodontists, I ask for a favorable report on HB 573 / SB 792.

Sincerely,

Natalie Miller, DDS, MS
Board-Certified Orthodontist
President, Maryland Society of Orthodontists