

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
House Government Operations (HGO) Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **HB 406** State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists - Appointment of Members and Quorum
Position: **LETTER OF INFORMATION**

Madam Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Committee Members:

I am writing to provide information regarding my personal experience applying to serve on the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists, as an audiologist. Please note that I am providing this information as an audiologist in the State of Maryland, not as a Board of Examiner member.

I was contacted on January 12, 2023 by the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) to determine if I had any interest in serving on the Board of Examiners to fill a vacant audiologist seat. I confirmed that I did wish to have my name submitted for consideration. I began my submission in early February, 2023 and it was submitted directly to the Secretary of Health and Governor through the Governor's portal on February 17, 2023. An "Accepted Recommendation sent to jana@ahbhearing.com" was received on May 25, 2023.

I then heard nothing for almost four (4) months and assumed that I had not been appointed to fill the vacant audiology seat. Around September 22, 2023, I received a letter dated September 18, 2023 confirming my Board appointment. The letter indicated that I had been appointed and my term had begun on July 1, 2023. Immediately, per the letter's instruction, I arranged to be sworn in. I was sworn in on September 26, 2023 and attended my first Board meeting on October 26, 2023.

My concerns are the length of time it took for my appointment to be approved, as audiologists in the state of Maryland did not have full representation on the Board from July to October. The process was also very slow with almost no communication during the entire process. Additionally, had the MAA not contacted me, I would not have submitted my name for the vacant Board seat, as I was not approached by the Board of Examiners. In the most recent Board open meeting, it was noted that the Board has not been submitting names for vacant seats, despite the current Statute to do so.

I hope this letter will serve to provide information that will improve this entire process.

Best Regards,

 , AuD, FAAA

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