



Maryland Academy of Audiology

P.O. Box 710

Parkville, MD 21234

<https://maaudiology.org/>

January 28, 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: **OPPOSE**

Melissa Segev, Au.D. Oral Testimony

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

My name is Melissa Segev, and I am a second-generation, licensed audiologist and small business owner of one of the largest and oldest private practices in the State of Maryland. On behalf of the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA), I am here to oppose HB 406.

The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists consists of multiple professions. The Hearing Aid Dispensers, Music Therapists, and physicians all nominate candidates for vacant Board seats from their state professional association^{1,2,3}. Successful legislation in 2024 from Delegate Kerr⁴ now requires the Maryland Academy of Audiology to submit candidates for vacant seats. The legislation became effective October 1, 2024; therefore, spring, 2025 will be the first opportunity for MAA to officially submit nominees. HB 406 would revert the successful 2024 legislation, without allowing it to take effect.

¹ Maryland Code , Health Occ. § 2-202- Membership, (a) (3), (i).

² Maryland Code , Health Occ. § 2-202- Membership, (a) (6), (i).

³ Maryland Code , Health Occ. § 2-202- Membership, (a) (8), (i).

⁴ HB 1476, 2024 Maryland Session.



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Additionally, HB 406 does not align the Board of Examiners for Audiologists with other Maryland Health Occupation Boards, including Chiropractors, Social Work, Optometrist, Nursing, and many more who all submit names from state professional associations.

HB 406 would further alienate the Board of Examiners for Audiologist from other state Boards. Therefore, I ask for an **unfavorable** committee report on HB 406.

Melissa Segev, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology
Audiology Associates, Inc.