

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
The Honorable Nancy J. King

FROM: Ariel J. Warden-Jarrett, MD, FAAFP
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RE: Senate Bill 466 – **SUPPORT** – *Income Tax – Credit for Physician Preceptors in Areas With Health Care Workforce Shortages – Alterations*

My name is Dr. Ariel Warden-Jarrett, and I am a board-certified family physician practicing in Prince George’s County. I have served as a preceptor and medical educator for well over a decade, and I rise today in strong support of Maryland *Senate Bill 466: Income Tax – Credit for Physician Preceptors in Areas With Health Care Workforce Shortages – Alterations*.

I grew up in the Golden State of California and moved to Maryland when I was accepted to The George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. During my training, I had the privilege of being precepted by a dedicated primary care physician in Olney, Maryland. That experience changed my life. It was through the mentorship, modeling, and investment of that preceptor that I not only refined my clinical skills, but also fell in love with the practice of primary care—and with the State of Maryland. I stayed, I built my career here, and I now serve Maryland families every day.

Maryland is facing a primary care shortage. We are also facing a preceptor shortage. These two challenges are directly connected. It takes time, commitment, and resources to teach the next generation of physicians while maintaining a full clinical load. Yet preceptors are the bridge between medical education and workforce development. Without us, students cannot complete required clinical training. Without meaningful clinical training experiences in Maryland, students are less likely to remain here to practice.

This legislation strengthens an existing program by expanding eligibility to include qualifying preceptors who teach students enrolled in non-Maryland schools. In today’s educational landscape, many Maryland clinical training sites serve students from institutions across the region. These students train here, develop professional relationships here, and often choose to practice here. Supporting the physicians who teach them is a strategic investment in Maryland’s healthcare future.

We must remember one simple truth: we are all patients at some point in life. At some moment—whether as legislators, parents, professionals, or retirees—we will sit on the other side of the exam table. When that time comes, I hope you are cared for by one of the most highly trained primary care specialists in the nation: a family physician. But that physician does not become

excellent by accident. It takes years of rigorous training—and it takes a committed preceptor to mold, mentor, and refine that training.

I love teaching medical students. I do it because I believe in the future of our profession and the health of our communities. This bill provides meaningful incentive and recognition for physicians who invest in education despite growing clinical demands. It is a practical, forward-thinking strategy to address workforce shortages and ensure that Maryland remains a prestigious and competitive state for primary care practice.

For the health of our communities, for the strength of our workforce, and for every Marylander who will one day be a patient, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 466.

Thank you for your time and consideration.