

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Senate Finance Committee

11 Bladen Street
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I strongly support the licensure of Anesthesiologist Assistants in Maryland. My name is Michael Timmer, and I am a lifelong Maryland resident and a current Anesthesiologist Assistant (AA) student training in Washington, DC. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 951/House Bill 1558—State Board of Physicians—Anesthesiologist Assistants—Licensing, and I respectfully ask for your support for this important legislation.

Becoming an AA has required years of rigorous medical education, long clinical hours, and a deep commitment to patient safety. I chose this profession to serve patients safely within the physician anesthesiologist–led Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) model. CAAs do not practice independently. We practice exclusively within the physician-led Anesthesia Care Team model, collaborating closely with anesthesiologists to ensure safe, high-quality care for every patient. In states where AAs are licensed, we also help improve operating room efficiency, reduce surgical delays, and expand access to anesthesia services. Overall, strengthening the delivery of surgical care.

For me, this issue is personal. Maryland is my home and I have lived here my whole life. My family, my wife, and closest friends are here, and this is the community that supported me throughout my education. After dedicating so much time and effort to this profession, it is difficult to accept that I would have to leave my home state, move away from my support system, and start over somewhere else just to practice the career I've worked so hard to achieve. I want the opportunity to give back to the hospitals and communities that helped shape me. Additionally, I commute 45 minutes each way to practice and learn in D.C. Licensing AAs in Maryland would not only strengthen the healthcare workforce and support hospitals facing staffing challenges, but it would also allow Maryland students like myself to stay close to our families and serve the communities we care about most. I respectfully ask you to support this bill so Maryland can license CAAs and ensure patients have access to timely, safe, physician-led anesthesia care close to home.

Sincerely,

Michael Timmer