

March 3, 2026

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

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am an anesthesiologist that is a resident of Maryland and I have been a resident here for 21 years. For the last 12 years I have been licensed to practice medicine in Maryland and Washington DC and practice in Washington DC where I have been fortunate to work with individuals who are Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs). These CAA professionals work under the direct supervision of physician anesthesiologists in the operating room.

I would like to urge you to support the following legislation : Senate Bill 951/House Bill 1558—State Board of Physicians—Anesthesiologist Assistants—Licensing to bring Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAA) to Maryland. I completed my medical school and anesthesiology residency training in Maryland and when I started work in 2012 in Washington DC I was introduced to the profession of the CAA. I was immediately impressed on how CAAs worked together in a skilled fashion with me on the anesthesia care team in the same way as CRNAs would. This means that all anesthetic plans and care are designed by the physician and CAA together so if there are any issues in care, the physician anesthesiologist is called immediately and arrives to troubleshoot together with the CAA. We have saved many lives this way in the operating room. I was struck by the investment in teamwork of this profession and how their education program at a master's level allowed them to help patients that were gravely ill obtain the necessary surgical care by providing safe anesthesia. I became involved in CAA education by teaching student CAAs in the hospital during rotations like obstetric anesthesia and general anesthesia. I also taught the students in the classroom and simulation sessions and found that the rigorous education prepared them to work on the anesthesia care team. Currently there are many CAAs that are living in Maryland that are providing their anesthesia care in Washington DC and others looking to Virginia or other states for employment since CAAs are licensed in 23 states including DC and Virginia.

I believe we can meet the need for increasing the workforce in anesthesia in Maryland by bringing CAAs to our state, and this will include many CAAs that already reside in Maryland. This will allow costs for anesthesia to be controlled and the highest level of safe anesthesia care to be delivered via the anesthesia care team. Many physicians in Maryland like me desire to work as part of the care team to ensure the safety of our patients.

Sincerely,
Fay Horng, MD