

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,
My name is Lily, and I am a Maryland resident, homeowner, and Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA). I was born and raised in Maryland, my family resides here, and I attended the University of Maryland all before graduating from CAA school in May 2025. I have been licensed and practicing as a CAA at a pediatric hospital since July 2025. I respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill 951/ House Bill 1558—State Board of Physicians—Anesthesiologist Assistants—Licensing.

As a CAA, I work under the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist as part of the physician-led Anesthesia Care Team. Our education is rigorous and clinically based, specifically designed to prepare us to deliver high-quality anesthesia care in collaboration with anesthesiologists while following the same safety practices in the operating room. In practice, CAAs perform comprehensive patient assessments, develop and implement anesthesia plans with the supervising physician, manage airways, administer anesthesia, monitor patients throughout procedures, and provide post-operative care, with immediate physician involvement as needed in any setting. This team-based model enhances efficiency, improves operating room throughput, and maintains the highest standards of patient safety without compromising physician leadership.

Currently, CAAs are licensed in 23 states, including the District of Columbia and Virginia with standardized national certification and recertification processes. Because Maryland does not yet license CAAs, I must commute out of state to practice. My commute is at least one hour each way. This daily travel prevents me from fully investing my time and resources into my local Maryland community, including supporting neighborhood shops, restaurants, and small businesses near my home. As a Maryland homeowner, I am deeply committed to building my life and long-term career here, and I want my professional work to reflect that same investment in our state.

I currently work at a pediatric hospital, where I have the privilege of caring for a diverse population of children undergoing complex surgery and procedures. Providing anesthesia for pediatric patients requires specialized skills, careful attention, and close collaboration within the care team. It is incredibly meaningful work that I am grateful to do, however, I live close to multiple medical institutions in Maryland, including pediatric surgical centers, and would welcome the opportunity to serve the children and families in my own community rather than commuting across state lines to do so.

Licensing CAAs under the State Board of Physicians would provide clear regulatory oversight, strengthen Maryland's anesthesia workforce, and help address growing surgical demand. By

formally recognizing CAAs, Maryland can expand access to safe, physician-led anesthesia care while maintaining strong patient protections and professional accountability. This legislation would also help retain Maryland-trained healthcare professionals who are eager to practice and remain in the state long term.

As someone who has built both my personal and professional life in Maryland, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 951/House Bill 1558—State Board of Physicians—Anesthesiologist Assistants—Licensing. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to strengthening healthcare access in our state.

Sincerely,

Lily Bahmanyar, MSA, CAA

Lifelong Maryland Resident and Homeowner