

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

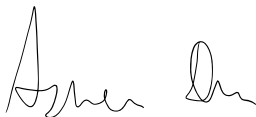
Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a longtime Maryland resident, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 951/House Bill 1558—State Board of Physicians—Anesthesiologist Assistants—Licensing. This bill would allow for the licensure of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) in the state of Maryland, adding Maryland to the 23 states where CAAs are currently licensed, including Virginia and the District of Columbia. CAAs receive a graduate level education, attain standardized national certification with ongoing continuing education and recertification requirements, and practice exclusively in the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) model under the supervision of a physician anesthesiologist.

I have been practicing as a CAA for nine years, and thus far I have spent my entire career working in the District of Columbia. Maryland hospitals and surgery centers face anesthesia staffing pressures that limit or delay procedures, and by not licensing CAAs Maryland is preventing themselves from accessing a deep and robust talent pool from within their own state. By adding CAAs to existing ACT models, Maryland can expand capacity without altering physician leadership and allow Maryland CAAs to provide medical care to their Maryland friends and neighbors in Maryland hospitals.

In the last four years, five other states have adopted CAA licensure. I urge you to support this bill and add Maryland to that list, allowing CAAs living in Maryland the opportunity to work where they live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashleigh Dechow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a distinct "D".

Ashleigh Dechow, CAA  
Silver Spring, Maryland