

# Senate Bill 951

## CAA Testimony

### TO

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

**MARCH 4, 2026**

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Danielle Gardner. I am a Maryland resident and Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant currently practicing at a level one trauma center in Washington DC.

I am writing this letter to encourage support of **Senate Bill 951** to allow Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAA) licensure in the state of Maryland. Currently, CAAs are licensed in 24 jurisdictions, including our neighboring state of Virginia, as well as Washington D.C. I moved to Maryland when I was 4 years old (I'm 33 now) and lived in Prince Georges and Charles County until I moved away for undergraduate studies. In 2019, I earned my Masters in Anesthesia and chose to work in Savannah, Georgia at a level 1 trauma center in hopes that in a few years Maryland would grant licensure for CAAs. My husband, a petty officer first class in the Navy, was assigned duty station in Virginia Beach at the time which forced us to live apart for the first four years of our marriage since Virginia also did not have licensure at the time. Our goal was to be closer to family and live in the area we met (Charles Co.). Fortunately, in 2023, my husband was assigned a new duty station at Anacostia-Bolling which meant we could finally live together. We chose to live in Southern Maryland for many reasons; however, that meant my commute would be over an hour into work and often double that on my way home.

Voting in favor of Senate Bill 951 would bring many families like mine closer together and benefit Maryland residents for several reasons too. CAAs have been in existence for nearly 60 years, working safely within the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT), a model that is physician-led and requires anesthesiologist supervision. Adding CAAs to the existing ACT model in Maryland will keep clinicians and care capacity in the state without changing physician leadership or replacing other anesthesia professional colleagues. As with many roles in healthcare, there is a shortage of anesthesia personnel. Granting licensure for CAAs in Maryland will reduce staffing pressure that many hospitals and surgical centers face, as well as reduce delays or limitations in procedures available to our communities.

CAA education is rigorous, graduate-level training that is anesthesia specific and requires standardized national certification, ongoing continuing education, and re-certification. Our profession is in high demand as medical advancements continue to immerge in the surgical and anesthesia realm. Please consider voting in favor of the bill to allow Maryland to license CAAs so that families like mine can continue to grow together and to allow more timely access to physician-led anesthesia care to Maryland residents close to home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Danielle Gardner, CAA*

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**DANIELLE GARDNER**

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