

March 1, 2026

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

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I was born and raised in Salisbury, Maryland, and growing up on the Eastern Shore was a gift. I spent countless hours outdoors with my younger brothers, enjoying everything our area has to offer—from the beaches of Ocean City to the natural beauty of Assateague. After high school, I attended the University of Maryland in College Park, where I studied public health. Following graduation, I spent a year conducting research on opioid use disorder in Federalsburg, MD.

When it came time to choose a career path, discovering the Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) profession felt like striking gold. Now, with less than two months remaining in my training, I can confidently say that it truly was. The CAA profession is an ideal fit for me. I find deep fulfillment in caring for and advocating on behalf of patients during some of the most stressful and vulnerable moments of their lives. This career offers everything I hoped to find—except for one important piece: the opportunity to practice back home in Maryland.

Returning home to be near my parents means more to me than I can fully express. There is a unique comfort and sense of belonging that only home provides. As a lifelong Salisbury resident and a graduate of the University of Maryland, this state is not just where I'm from—it's who I am. Over the past two years as an AA student, I have cared for patients in Washington, D.C., where CAAs are licensed to practice. Many of those patients are Maryland residents. If I am entrusted to care for Marylanders in D.C., why can't I care for my fellow Marylanders in our home?

Having lived in Salisbury and conducted research in Federalsburg, I have seen firsthand the impact that healthcare workforce shortages have on our communities. The shortage of anesthesia professionals in Maryland is particularly concerning, as

it limits patients' access to timely surgical care. Expanding CAA licensure to Maryland would help address this gap—improving access for patients while also allowing Marylanders like myself to return and serve the communities that shaped us.

While I am excited to begin my career as a CAA in Washington, D.C. in the coming months, I remain hopeful for a future in which I can practice in Maryland. I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 951 to allow Maryland to license CAAs, ensuring that Maryland residents have access to timely, physician-led anesthesia care close to home.

Sincerely,

Millicent Kihuria  
Second-Year Student Anesthesiologist Assistant

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Millicent Kihuria", written in black ink on a white background.