



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

**Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 304
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299**

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 420 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

Dear Chair Wells and Committee Members,

The State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) submits this Letter of Support with Amendment regarding HB 420 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act.

The Board concurs with the amendments proposed by the Board of Physicians. These amendments preserve the bill’s original intent, eliminate the need to amend each licensing practice act, and ensure that the Health Occupation Boards retain the ability to implement the provisions through regulation.

Accordingly, the Board recommends that certain existing statutory language remain unchanged. For example, on page 69, line 11, the bill proposes to amend the definition of “direct supervision” as follows:

(b–1) “Direct supervision” means supervision provided by [a licensed physical therapist] **AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE PHYSICAL THERAPY IN THE STATE**, et seq.

The Board recommends adding a new section to Title 1, Subtitle 2 (“General Provisions”) of the Health Occupations Article stating:

(a) An individual who is qualified under SG § 10-14A-03 may practice to the same extent and in the same capacity as an individual licensed under this Article.

(b) The Department, in consultation with the boards, shall adopt regulations to implement SG § 10-14A-03.

The Board respectfully submits this Letter of Support with Amendment for HB 420 the Committee's consideration.

Should you require any further information or clarification on this matter, please contact me at (443) 610-8047 or at laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison for the Health Occupations Boards & Commissions, at (443) 794-4757 or lillian.reese@maryland.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Kendall-Ellis".

Laurie Kendall-Ellis, PT, CAE
Executive Director

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.