

March 16th, 2026

House Health Committee  
6 Bladen Street  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Kaitlyn Denicola, and I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 951/House Bill 1558 — State Board of Physicians — Anesthesiologist Assistants — Licensing. I am a lifelong resident of Howard County, Maryland and have completed my undergraduate education at the University of Maryland, College Park. I am currently a Student anesthesiologist assistant enrolled in a Master of Science in Anesthesia program in Washington, DC. In order to be admitted into this program I completed hundreds of clinical experience hours. Admissions required completed Pre-Med classes including Organic Chemistry, Calculus, Biochemistry, Anatomy and Physiology.

Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) practice exclusively in the anesthesiologist led Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) model. We do not practice independently. During my training as a student, I have had first hand experience in this model. At multiple locations I have witnessed the delivery of safe, high quality anesthesia care in the ACT model across many surgical settings. Throughout my training, I gain experience across a wide range of specialties, including Cardiac, Neurosurgery, Obstetrics, Trauma, Pediatrics, and other complex surgical services which prepare me to care for diverse patient populations in high-acuity settings. Following graduation, I would strongly prefer to practice in Maryland if licensure were available.

CAAs are currently licensed in 23 states as well as the District of Columbia and Virginia. However, despite being a Maryland resident, I must leave the state in order to train and would need to leave the state for practice following graduation. Licensure would allow qualified, highly trained clinicians to remain in-state and expand access to surgical care while maintaining physician-led oversight. While I was at University of Maryland, I co-founded a pre-anesthesiologist assistant club that grew significantly within the first year, most of whom are lifelong Maryland residents who want to become a CAA. It would strengthen Maryland's healthcare workforce by allowing hospitals and surgical centers to incorporate CAAs into the existing care models.

As a Maryland resident, I am deeply invested in serving the communities and patients that have shaped who I am as a person. I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 951/House Bill 1558

so that Maryland residents may return home to provide safe, physician-led care to Maryland patients. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kaitlyn Denicola  
Maryland Resident