

House Health Committee

6 Bladen Street

House Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Members of the House Health Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 1558, which would allow for the licensure of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAs) in Maryland. As a Maryland resident living in Bowie, I believe this legislation would strengthen our healthcare system and help hospitals meet the growing demand for anesthesia services. AAs are highly trained medical professionals who work under the supervision of physician anesthesiologists as part of the anesthesia care team. Many other states already license AAs, and allowing them to practice in Maryland would help improve patient access to surgical care, reduce operating room delays, and support hospitals that are struggling with staffing shortages. Hospitals often rely on expensive locum or traveling anesthesia providers to fill these gaps, which can significantly increase healthcare costs and reduce long-term workforce stability.

This issue is also personal for my family, as my wife is a trained anesthesiologist assistant who would gladly pay the full Maryland licensing fee in order to work in the state where we live. Currently, she must commute to another state simply to practice her profession, which takes valuable time away from our family and our local community. Licensing AAs in Maryland would allow skilled healthcare professionals like my wife to serve patients closer to home while helping hospitals build a stable, long-term workforce instead of relying on temporary staffing solutions. Supporting House Bill 1558 would benefit patients, hospitals, and Maryland families by strengthening access to safe, team-based anesthesia care across the state.

Sincerely,

Jahmel Raymond

Bowie, Maryland