

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

Dear Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Mark Coelho and I am a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) and lifelong Maryland resident. I have been working for 5 years and have worked in St. Louis, Missouri, and I currently work in Washington, D.C. I love my job because I get to play a crucial role in physician-led anesthesia care. Everyday, my Ravens and Orioles scrub caps serve as a reminder that I have strong Maryland pride. As much as I love working in DC, I would love to work in my hometown state. There is a huge need for anesthesia providers in Maryland and I would love to help take care of the patients in need of urgent surgeries.

I really love providing anesthesia for patients and I thrive in the anesthesia care team model. Along with the guidance of an anesthesiologist, we are able to take care of very sick patients and help them get through their toughest of battles. It is my dream to work in Maryland and that would be possible with your support of House Bill 1558. This bill would allow for more anesthesia providers to be available to Maryland residents, like my parents, and they would have the guidance of anesthesiologists. As CAAs, we would continue to have supervision and we would be able to help with the growing need of anesthesia providers. Not far away, CAAs are able to work in DC and recently, Virginia.

CAAs must complete a graduate level program that is anesthesia specific. While in school, we learn from CAAs and anesthesiologists. I currently precept many students and I help many students from Maryland apply to CAA schools. Upon completion of our training, we serve as patient advocates while patients are under anesthesia. I have had the pleasure to take care of many patients and help them on their road to recovery. I will gladly pay the license fee to allow me to practice in Maryland if this bill is approved. Including CAAs in Maryland will help bring committed full time providers and limit the hefty price that Locum providers require.

I kindly ask that you please support the bill to allow Maryland to license CAAs so Maryland patients can access timely, physician-led anesthesia care close to home.

Sincerely,

Mark Coelho, CAA

Ellicott City, Maryland