

House Health Committee
6 Bladen St.,
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD, 21401

House Bill 1558—State Board of Physicians—Anesthesiologist Assistants—Licensing
Position: Favorable

Dear Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Rosa Scholl, and I'm a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) in Washington D.C. I've been licensed and working as a CAA since I graduated from the Masters of Science in Anesthesia Program at Case Western Reserve University in summer of 2023. I'm writing to you today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 951/House Bill 1558 - State Board of Physicians - Anesthesiologist Assistants - Licensing. While I attended graduate school in Washington D.C. and currently still live there, my fiance and I are currently house shopping in Maryland. I grew up in Montgomery County and my parents live in Potomac, so I'd like to be close to them. Additionally, I used to be a career Firefighter/Paramedic at Sykesville Fire Department in Carroll County, and am currently still a volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic at Branchville Volunteer Fire Department in Prince George's County. For these reasons, Maryland is very close to my heart. Serving my community as a career and volunteer firefighter was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Unfortunately, the schedule and work life balance was not feasible for me in the long run, but thankfully the fire department introduced me to the excellent career I am a part of now, Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants. Similarly to when I was a paramedic, CAAs work under the direction of a supervising anesthesiologist, so we are part of a care team. This enhances patient safety and improves the level of care our patients receive. In addition to being board certified after completing a Master's Degree, CAAs also complete continuing education requirements every 2 years and recertify with a licensing exam every 10 years, contrary to some of our counterparts in anesthesia. I would love to extend this level of safety to Maryland, and provide more access to comprehensive, patient centered, physician-lead care. By covering our own licensing fees and providing full-time anesthesia care, the state of Maryland could save money by hiring CAAs to address workforce shortages. Currently, CAAs like me are licensed in 23 states, including Virginia and Washington D.C. Maryland could be the fortunate 24th state to license CAAs and improve the anesthesia workforce shortages with safe, highly-skilled anesthesia providers. Instead of spending more money hiring traveler and locums anesthesia personnel, this bill would allow people like me to more easily move back to Maryland and directly contribute to the Maryland health system instead of driving past its hospitals facing workforce shortages to get to another state that we can work in. Without replacing any of the existing anesthesia professionals, CAA's could help support the Maryland workforce! Please consider supporting Senate Bill 951/House Bill 1558 and approve licensure for highly trained, nationally recognized, Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants in Maryland.

Sincerely,
Rosa Scholl
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