

Heather Murray, Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA)

6138 Main Street
Queenstown, MD 21658
hplocinik@yahoo.com

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House Health Committee

6 Bladen Street
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Members of the House Health Committee,

I'm a Maryland resident of 16 years and a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) of 8 years who wants to practice at home to help Maryland patients access timely surgical and procedural care. I currently commute 1.5 hours from Queen Anne's County to Washington D.C. to provide specialized pediatric care as a CAA. CAAs are currently licensed in 23 states, including the District of Columbia and Virginia; however, I would love to bring my expertise in pediatrics back home to Maryland at any number of local hospitals that are within 20 minutes of my home.

Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) practice only in the physician anesthesiologist-led Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) model. We do not practice independently; anesthesiologist supervision is required. CAA education is graduate-level and anesthesia-specific, with standardized national certification. Ongoing continuing education and recertification requirements maintain competence over time.

Maryland hospitals and surgical centers are currently facing anesthesia staffing pressure that delays or limits procedures. I experienced this firsthand when I delivered my son at a local Annapolis hospital in April 2025. The anesthesiologist that performed my epidural shared that he hoped CAAs would get licensure in Maryland in the near future because his department was severely understaffed with very few clinicians specifically experienced in pediatric anesthesia.

To be clear, the House Bill 1558 does not create independent practice for CAAs. It does not replace other anesthesia professional colleagues; it adds another supervised clinician to the team. It does not change existing practice authority or hospital bylaws; facilities decide staffing models within applicable

law and policy. We are willing to pay the license fee in full as a trade off for shorter commute times to Maryland area hospitals.

Please support the **House Bill 1558—State Board of Physicians—Anesthesiologist Assistants—Licensing** to allow Maryland to license CAAs so Maryland patients can access timely, physician-led anesthesia care close to home.

Sincerely,

Heather Murray

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