

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the House,

My name is Joshua Starost, and my family and I are members of District 19. I am a Student Anesthesiologist Assistant at Case Western Reserve University's Master of Science in Anesthesia Program Washington D.C. campus. I am writing to alert you of a bill that is currently scheduled for a hearing. House Bill 1558, titled State Board of Physicians - Anesthesiologist Assistants - Licensing.

This Bill is important to me as I am a senior in my program and graduating in May of 2026. I would love to live and work near my family and community, but because CAAs are not licensed in Maryland, I cannot do so.

I've met my friends from attending K-12 throughout Maryland, and we would meet anywhere from the Germantown library to Lake Needwood. I also fondly remember working my first jobs in Rockville and Gaithersburg. I've always wanted to stay here in Maryland.

I would like to help fill the shortage in anesthesia staff here in my home State. Our profession is strictly physician led with a supervising attending anesthesiologist. We do not practice independently and follow the same culture of safety: checklists, escalation, immediate physician involvement in complex or emergent events. This bill will improve regulation and protect the public further on. Hospitals already credential and privilege anesthesia clinicians through a rigorous, high quality peer reviewed system. Licensure will be able to add a further level of accountability, providing a clear pathway rather than leaving Maryland without this supervised workforce option.

This bill does not create independence nor change existing hospital bylaws. It also does not displace any other current professional anesthesia clinicians, but rather adds another supervised clinician to the team.

My graduate level learning environment has been very anesthesia specific and is standardized across the nation. Giving the option to stay within our school area or the ability to visit a large multitude of different states and cities, diversifying our experiences.

Please consider supporting this Bill and please let me know if there is any other information you would like me to supply for more context.

Thank you for your time,
Joshua Starost