

## **House Health Committee**

6 Bladen Street

House Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Galan Jones and I am a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) that resides in Maryland. I have been practicing as a CAA for 8 years. I would love to work in Prince George's County and help patients in my community access safe and timely surgical care . I currently commute 40 minutes to work in DC every day due to my inability to practice in Maryland. I have to drive past 3 Maryland hospital systems and be farther from my family. I would gladly pay the full Maryland licensing fee if given the opportunity to work in my home state. There would be a great return on my investment because I would get money back due to a shorter work commute and more time with my family.

The hospital in DC that I currently work at is a level one trauma center and I care for the sickest and most vulnerable patients in the region. At my facility I am involved in anesthesia care for all specialties. These specialties include trauma, obstetrics, orthopedics, pediatrics, general surgery, bariatric surgery, and neurosurgery. CAAs are members of the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) and uphold patient safety under physician-led care. In the facilities that we currently work, we follow the same OR safety culture as all other hospitals.

Granting licensure for CAAs in Maryland will help staffing issues that many hospitals and surgical centers currently face. These facilities won't have to use expensive and temporary locum tenens providers, instead they can pull from a network of providers that already call Maryland their home. House Bill 1558 does not replace other anesthesia providers, instead it adds another supervised clinician to the ACT. Maryland can expand surgical capacity by adding CAAs to existing ACT models without changing physician leadership. CAAs are ready to step in and help patients in the state of Maryland just as we have been licensed to do in Virginia, DC, and 22 other states. There are 26 AA schools in the country that are graduating competent students every year to help mitigate anesthesia shortages.

Please support House Bill 1558 and allow hardworking CAA Maryland residents to provide safe physician-led anesthesia care, while staying close to home.

Sincerely,  
Galan Jones CAA