

House Health Committee  
6 Bladen Street  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
House Bill 1558—State Board of Physicians—Anesthesiologist Assistants—Licensing  
Position: Favorable

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

My name is Jaclyn Babin and I am a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant. I was born and raised in the state of Maryland and have now laid down my own family's roots here in Maryland. I earned my Master of Science in Anesthesia degree from Case Western Reserve University's MSA program in Washington D.C. and have been working for almost 6 years at a Level 1 Trauma Center since I graduated in 2020, in the middle of the Covid19 Pandemic. I am currently the Student Anesthesiologist Assistant Coordinator there and the President of the Maryland Association of Anesthesiologist Assistants.

Being in healthcare was always a goal of mine and I was introduced to the profession by my uncle who was a neurosurgeon here in Maryland. When I applied for the MSA program, my first choice was to be accepted into the D.C. program so that I could be close to home and learn at the hospitals in D.C. where I would be able to work after graduation. Living and working anywhere else farther away from Maryland was not an option.

Graduating in 2020 at such an unprecedented time was intimidating. In March, before graduation, I knew my preceptors were placing themselves in harm's way and returning to their families with such little knowledge of the effects of this virus, and I wanted to be standing with them. Even in July when I started, we were intubating patients in the ICUs and spending hours wearing N95s and plastic protective gowns in the operating rooms keeping patients safe during urgent and emergent surgeries. This is still the Level 1 Trauma Center I work for today, where we do cases that range from screening colonoscopies to emergent traumas that arrive in critical condition. We provide anesthesia care for 5 minute procedures to 24 hour long surgeries, all under the direction of a Physician Anesthesiologist.

As SAA Student Coordinator for my hospital, I believe in education and opportunity for every learner, and I can tell you firsthand that this proposed bill will not remove or restrict preceptorship or opportunity for any learner. I work alongside my hospital's Student Coordinator for other anesthesia professionals. We collaborate on best practices navigating the systems access process for our students, and have open conversations. We do not displace each other's students from preceptors or specific case opportunities.

As President of the Maryland Association of Anesthesiologist Assistants, Inc., I hear many stories of long commutes, and the simple desire to help serve our communities and work with our amazing Physician Anesthesiologists. House Bill 1558 does not reduce the role of current anesthesia professionals in Maryland hospitals. It simply adds another qualified, nationally certified member to the physician-led Anesthesia Care Team so facilities have more staffing options to meet patient demand.

I now live ten minutes from a nearby hospital, and it is actually where I was born and where I had my first healthcare shadowing experience. I pass this hospital every single day on my hour-long commute into D.C. The concern of licensure cost has been brought up by the Board of Physicians, but I would gladly pay the full cost of licensure as two hours in the car away from my family costs exponentially more.

I'm sure with the written testimony you have all had access to, you will see the same pattern. We are here, we support Maryland and want to support our communities, and yet all of us have to cross state lines to do our job. Just like waiting for graduation during the pandemic, I and so many of us are sitting on the sidelines, waiting and ready to help with staffing shortages. I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 1558—State Board of Physicians—Anesthesiologist Assistants—Licensing and in turn, extend access to safe anesthesia care for Maryland patients.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jaclyn Babin  
Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant  
Maryland Resident of District 19