

HB 806/SB0167– Physician Assistants – Revisions (Physician Assistant
Modernization Act of 2024)

Support Testimony of Karen Pipkin CRNP

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Good afternoon, members of the Senate and House Committees.

My name is Karen Pipkin CRNP a Maryland licensed Nurse Practitioner, working for Luminis Health, Annapolis, Maryland. I support the bill, SB0167/HB 806 - Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2024 legislation put forth by the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA).

As you know, Maryland is facing significant healthcare provider shortages. These shortages are placing undue pressure on the practicing providers and limiting patients' access to care, particularly within primary care, women's health, behavioral health, and underserved and rural communities. Physician assistants are trained on an accelerated medical model and a team-based approach, which includes collaboration with Physicians and other health professionals. The administrative barriers that exist when hiring PAs in Maryland, increase both the administrative and cost burden on hospitals, private clinics, and all healthcare facilities. The proposed legislation focuses on the removal of these administrative barriers, which delay the employment and utilization of well-trained, compassionate PAs, who can assist in reducing the gap in access to care, as well as the unprecedented healthcare shortage.

As the Lead Advanced Practice Provider for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants at Luminis Health for the last decade, I can attest to the outstanding care provided by our physician assistants. They are critical for increasing access to care for patients in the community. The modernization bill is long overdue and necessary to decrease administrative burdens in our health system. In addition, these current restrictions in practice have caused unnecessary barriers with delegation agreements that are often ambiguous and not relevant to the quality of care.

I ask that you support and enact this legislation on behalf of our patients, communities, and state.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Maryland,

Karen Pipkin MS, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC