



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 20, 2024

To: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee

Re: Letter of Support- House Bill 806 - Physician Assistants - Revisions (Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2024)

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 806.

Maryland hospitals continue to face staffing shortages, including among physicians. To fill these gaps, hospitals rely on physician assistants to act as physician extenders and increase access to care, especially primary care in underserved areas of the state. MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future.

HB 806 would help modernize the practice and licensure of physician assistants in Maryland. Under the bill, physician assistants would practice under a "collaboration agreement" rather than a "delegation agreement" as required by current law. Under a "collaboration agreement" a physician assistant would not be required to practice in the constant physical presence of a collaborating physician on site in the practice setting. These practice flexibilities would help physician assistants practice at the top of their scope, which is essential given projected workforce shortages and aging population.

This bill represents a step forward in modernizing the physician assistant profession and interaction with physicians. Maryland hospitals support the goals of this bill to ensure physician assistants can practice at the top of their scope to help meet the health care needs of all Marylanders.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on HB 806.

For more information, please contact:
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