

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

Support Testimony of Victoria Trott, MMS, PA-C, AQH

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Good afternoon, members of the Senate Committee.

My name is Victoria Trott, the Director of Advocacy, Leadership and Organizational Development, working for the PA Learning and Leadership Academy based within the University of Maryland, Baltimore. I support the bill, SB0167 - Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2024 legislation put forth by the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA).

PALLA was founded in 2019 with a mission to advance the PA profession through PA education, research, policy, and practice in Maryland. Our PA programs continue to grow in numbers, students, and graduates, who are well-trained and patient-centric PAs eager to practice in Maryland. As we work towards promoting and strengthening the PA workforce in Maryland, we are challenged with barriers surrounding practice laws and regulations, driving our new graduates, and practicing PAs to surrounding states.

Physician Assistants have been collaborating with physicians, nurses, and other health professionals, across medical specialties since the early 1970s, providing patients across Maryland with high-quality, compassionate care. As you know, healthcare in the state of Maryland is challenged with health outcome disparities and unprecedented shortages, particularly within primary care, women's health, behavioral health, underserved, and rural communities. PAs receive intensive didactic and clinical education, which follows the medical model and team-based approach. Upon graduation, PAs who are both residents of Maryland and qualified PAs, are prepared and eager to begin providing care to patients within the state. However, administrative barriers, which include central processing of delegation agreements, core, and advanced duty approval process, are prolonging and restricting PA practice and utilization within our healthcare systems. The proposed legislation focuses on the removal of these administrative barriers, which delay the employment of well-trained, patient-centric PAs, who can assist in improving patient access to 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,

Victoria Trott, MMS, PA-C, AQH