



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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## **MEDCHI APPLAUDS GOVERNOR MOORE’S SIGNING OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LEGISLATION**

BALTIMORE, May 20, 2024 — Today MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, applauds the Maryland General Assembly and Governor Wes Moore for the completion and modernization of the Maryland Physician Assistants statute. After three long years, legislation reforming the Maryland Physician Assistant (PA) law was finally adopted in the 2024 Session.

The legislation requires a collaboration agreement rather than the current delegation agreement. “Collaboration” is defined as being a physician-led team, the first reference to that concept in Maryland law. The Collaboration Agreement will be entered by a physician or group of physicians, but not an administrator of an entity, and expressly prohibits independent practice by PAs.

“The bill retains guardrails that support practitioners while protecting patients, which is our highest priority,” said MedChi CEO Gene Ransom. He expressed particular appreciation that the cap on non-economic damages was expanded to protect Physician Assistants from runaway medical liability verdicts. Specifically, the legislation includes PAs in the non-economic damage cap statute, which already covers most other health occupations. Before this legislation, PAs were unprotected by the cap. The new legislation is win for medicine in Maryland.

### About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org).