

See www.vahb157.com

HB157 has gone to the Commerce and Labor Committee, not the Health Committee. It is imperative that physicians write specifically to these legislators to support HB157. As always, organizations like National Board of Physicians and Surgeons (NBPAS), Practicing Physicians of American (PPA), Change Board Recertification (CBR), American Association of Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), and many individual physicians, will assist in getting the message out via social media and email. **Please try and send your email by January 22nd, 2018.** They will convene on January 23rd, 2018.

Here's a draft letter you can write to your the following legislators or feel free to give them a call and use the letter as a script. If you have time, please set up times to meet with them to discuss how important HB157 is important to patient access and care.

Delegate Gregory D. Habeeb DelGHabeeb@house.virginia.gov (804) 698-1008

Delegate Timothy D. Hugo DelTHugo@house.virginia.gov (804) 698-1040

Delegate Robert B. Bell DelRBell@house.virginia.gov (804) 698-1058

Delegate David E. Yancey DelDYancey@house.virginia.gov (804) 698-1094

Delegate Mark Keam DelMKeam@house.virginia.gov (804) 698-1035

Delegate Joseph C. Lindsey DelJLindsey@house.virginia.gov (804) 698-1090

Delegate David Toscano DelDToscano@house.virginia.gov (804) 698-1057

Please CC: info@vahb157.com so we can keep track of the number of letters of support that have been sent.

Dear Delegate

I understand that the HB 157 has been referred to the Commerce and Labor committee and you are one of the members.

I am in support of this bill and feel that supporting HB157 will help address a workgroup recommendations prepared by, the Virginia state medical board, the Department of Health Professions(DHP), on alternative approaches to address issues of physician workforce shortage. Ensuring the sustainability of any solution to address physician shortages is one of DHP's recommendations. Supporting HB157 does not change the current requirements to practice medicine as determined by DHP, in fact, it protects the standards set by the Commonwealth.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has released an updated report this year, confirming the findings from 2015 and predicting a physician shortage ranging from 61,700 to 94,700 by the year 2025. A projected shortage of approximately 14,900 to 35,600 primary care physicians is set to happen, along with a subspecialty shortage of between 37,400 to 60,300 physicians.

Virginia currently has more than 16,000 practicing physicians; 40 percent of whom practice as family, internal medicine, or pediatric physicians (Joint Commission on Doctor Shortage). MOC disproportionately impacts the primary care physicians. With hospitals and insurance companies requiring MOC, it becomes extremely burdensome for physicians to access the full complement of insurance programs and hospitals throughout the state. By doing so, it interferes with patients' abilities to access those physicians and hospitals. Any reduction in primary care physicians would significantly impact the Commonwealth's ability to provide adequate healthcare to its citizens.

Please support HB157.

Thanks so much for your support.