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May 24, 2024

Governor Wes Moore
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore,

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) is the world's largest association of neurologists and neuroscience professionals, with over 40,000 members. The AAN's mission is to enhance member career fulfillment and promote brain health for all. A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating, and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, concussion, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, headache, and migraine.

The AAN writes to urge you to veto SB 795 / HB 464. This legislation inappropriately expands the scope of practice for audiologists beyond their level of training and education. Most importantly, it jeopardizes patient safety.

SB 795 / HB 464 makes significant changes to the services and procedures which an audiologist can provide, including medical diagnosis and treatment, neither of which audiologists are trained to provide. While audiologists are valued health professionals who work for and with physicians, they do not possess the medical training necessary to perform the same duties as physicians, nor are they able to provide patients with the medical diagnosis and treatment options they require. The legislation is an extreme example of expanding scope of practice for all audiologists working in Maryland without requisite education and clinical training.

On behalf of the AAN, our 40,000 members, and their patients, we urge you to veto SB 795 / HB 464. Please don't hesitate to contact Grant Niver, AAN's Senior State Affairs Program Manager, at gniver@aan.com with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carlayne E. Jackson, MD, FAAN
President, American Academy of Neurology