



**From:** [Pennsylvania Rural Health Association](#)  
**To:** [Pennsylvania Rural Health Association](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Letter of Support - Act 79  
**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:41:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [PSPA Scope of Practice Support Letter.1-24.pdf](#)

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Good Morning,

Please find the attached letter offering the Pennsylvania Rural Health Association's support of approving the Proposed Rulemaking Package 16A-4955 (Physician Assistants) which addresses Act 79 of 2021.

Thank you for your time and we wish you all the best,

Abbie Mortorff, on behalf of the PRHA

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**Abbie Mortorff**

*Administrative Support*

Pennsylvania Rural Health Association



***To Advance the Health and Well-being of Pennsylvania's Rural Citizens and Communities***

January 9, 2024

Pennsylvania Medical Board  
Members of the Licensure Committee

Subject: Proposed Rulemaking Package 16A-4955 (Physician Assistants)

Dear Members of the Medical Board and Members of the Licensure Committee,

The Pennsylvania Rural Health Association is writing in support of approving the Proposed Rulemaking Package 16A-4955 (Physician Assistants) which addresses Act 79 of 2021. This Act modernized the Medical Practice Act for Physician Assistants working under the State Board of Medicine.

Act 79 removed certain restrictions on Physician Assistants' practice to provide greater autonomy for these clinicians. By doing so, Pennsylvania will permit Physician Assistants to practice to the full extent of their training and expertise. The Pennsylvania Rural Health Association supports all legislation that permits primary care practitioners, including Physician Assistants, to practice to the full extent of their training and license.

As you know, Act 79 created a permanent seat for Physician Assistants on the medical board, removed the requirement that a supervising physician countersign 100% of patient's charts, and allowed all written agreements between physicians and Physician Assistants to be "filed" with the Board instead of "approved" by the Board. The Act also outlined appropriate supervision requirements based on the needs of the physicians, Physician Assistants, and overall health care system and increased the number of Physician Assistants that a physician may have primary responsibility over from four to six.

The Pennsylvania Rural Health Association is dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of Pennsylvania's rural citizens and communities. The Association is comprised of individuals, organizations, professionals, and community leaders with a shared focus on rural health. Together, the Association is a collective voice for rural health issues and a conduit for information and resources.

Thank you, in advance, for your support.

Sincerely,

Debra Youngfelt, BS, MCHES®, CTTS  
President