



PAAPL

PENNSYLVANIA
ALLIANCE OF ADVANCED
PRACTICE LEADERS



January 15, 2024

Dear Board Counsel Dana Wucinski and the State Board of Medicine,

I am writing to you as the President of the Pennsylvania Alliance of Advanced Practice Leaders (PAAPL), an interprofessional organization dedicated to advancing and supporting the practice of Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, and Certified Nurse Midwives for the betterment of healthcare in Pennsylvania.

Our organization wholeheartedly supports the Proposed Rulemaking for Regulations 16A-4955 (Physician Assistants) under Act 79 of 2021. Act 79 represents a pivotal step forward in modernizing the Medical Practice Act for Physician Assistants (PAs) under the State Board of Medicine. By removing outdated restrictions and enhancing the autonomy of PAs, this Act ensures more efficient and effective healthcare delivery across our state.

The key elements of Act 79, including the creation of a permanent seat for PAs on the medical board, reduction in the requirement for countersigning patient charts, the simplification of written agreements between physicians and PAs, the establishment of appropriate supervision requirements, and the increase in the number of PAs a physician can oversee, are instrumental in transforming patient care. These changes not only reflect the evolving healthcare landscape but also acknowledge the vital role of PAs in delivering high-quality care.

The proposed new revisions under this Act are not just legislative changes; they represent a commitment to enhancing the quality of healthcare in Pennsylvania. They ensure that our healthcare system is more responsive to the needs of both practitioners and patients, facilitating a collaborative environment where the expertise of each team member is recognized and utilized effectively.

As an organization representing a diverse group of advanced practice leaders, PAAPL urges the State Board of Medicine to implement these changes. We believe that these reforms will significantly benefit the health of the citizens of Pennsylvania by ensuring that Physician-PA teams can operate at their highest potential.

We appreciate your consideration of our support for the Proposed Rulemaking 16-4955 in reference to Physician Assistants. This is a crucial step towards a more progressive and patient-centric healthcare system in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Corinna Sicoutris, MSN, ACNP-BC, FAANP, FCCM, FACHE
President, Pennsylvania Alliance of Advanced Practice Leaders (PAAPL)