

Nevada Academy of PAs

Advancement of its members and the PA profession through academy support, education, public awareness, and legislative action.



August 19, 2024

Dear Members of the Nevada Patient Protection Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Nevada Academy of PAs (NAPAs) to express our strong support for the Commission's consideration of pursuing professional licensure compacts, specifically the PA Compact, as discussed during the recent meeting. The PA Compact is crucial in enhancing healthcare access, improving provider mobility, and maintaining high standards of care across state lines.

The success of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) for physicians is a compelling example of the benefits a similar compact for PAs could bring to Nevada. Since its implementation, the IMLC has expanded access to care by enabling physicians to practice in multiple states. It has also simplified the licensing process, reduced administrative burdens, and allowed for a more agile response during public health emergencies—outcomes the PA Compact is poised to replicate for PAs.

The PA Compact will provide flexibility and facilitate multistate practice by creating a compact privilege for participating states, which is particularly important for Nevada, given its vast rural areas and growing urban populations. Joining the PA Compact will eliminate unnecessary administrative hurdles in recruiting and retaining PAs, and significantly expand patient access to highly qualified practitioners. It complements the existing authority of state licensing boards while ensuring patient safety.

Importantly, the PA Compact requires all PAs practicing in Nevada to adhere to the state's existing laws and regulations, ensuring that Nevada's high standards of practice are maintained.

Last month, Ohio became the thirteenth state to pass legislation for the PA Compact, joining Delaware, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Nebraska, Virginia, Oklahoma, Maine, Colorado, Tennessee, and Minnesota, all of which have previously enacted the PA Compact model legislation. The PA Compact Commission will be holding their first meeting in September 2024 with the states that have joined thus far. It will take 18-24 months for the compact to get up and running from that point, thus the importance of Nevada joining sooner and being able to participate in establishment of the PA Compact Commission. This growing adoption highlights the broad recognition of the Compact's benefits.

In conclusion, the PA Compact represents a balanced approach to improving healthcare access while preserving the integrity of care in Nevada. The success of the physician compact suggests similar positive outcomes with the PA Compact. We urge the Commission to support its adoption and similar initiatives that will benefit healthcare providers and patients in our state. For further details on the PA Compact, please feel free to reach out to NAPA, and there are a number of resources, including model legislation, available at pacompact.org.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Lauf'.

Brian Lauf, DMSc, MPA, PA-C, DFAAPA

President, Nevada Academy of PAs

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