

# Nevada Academy of PAs

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



September 20, 2024

Dear Members of the Nevada Patient Protection Commission,

To recruit and retain healthcare providers, Nevada would benefit from modernizing the Physician Associate/assistant (PA) Practice Act by removing barriers that limit PA practice. PAs play a crucial role in providing high-quality, cost-effective care while maintaining patient safety.<sup>1</sup>

In Nevada, PAs face more restrictive practice requirements than nurse practitioners (NPs), who gained full practice authority in 2013, even though both professions offer similar access to quality care. States like Utah, Idaho, Arizona, Wyoming, and North Dakota have already addressed these barriers by modernizing or eliminating the supervisory relationship mandates between certain PAs and physicians, allowing PAs to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and experience.

This modernization allows healthcare systems greater flexibility to form the best-suited healthcare teams to meet community needs while ensuring that PAs, physicians, and other professionals continue to collaborate on safe, high-quality care. Modernizing Nevada's PA practice laws will position the state as a leader in healthcare innovation and help address current challenges in healthcare access and workforce shortages by attracting a robust, adaptable healthcare workforce.

1. DePalma SM, DePalma M, Kolhoff S, Smith NE. Medical malpractice payment reports of physician assistants/associates related to state practice laws and regulations. *Journal of Medical Regulation*. 2023;109(4):27-37. doi:10.30770/2572-1852-109.4.27

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brian S. Lauf, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "B. Lauf", written over a circular line.

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