



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS IN
LEGAL MEDICINE
AAPALM



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May 3, 2017

NCCPA Attn: Mary L. Warner, MMSc, PA-C
12000 Findlay Road Suite
100 Johns Creek, GA 30097-1409

Dear Ms. Warner:

I am writing you on behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the American Academy of Physician Assistants in Legal Medicine(AAPALM). We found the recent governor's veto of the West Virginia PA modernization bill to be very disheartening. When we learned that the NCCPA successfully lobbied the governor to veto the bill that had been unanimously approved by the legislature, we became very concerned and, frankly, disappointed with your organization's actions. Our dismay has only increased when we discovered that the NCCPA also engaged in concerted, lobbying efforts to jeopardize similar practice modernization bills in the states of Illinois and New Mexico. The NCCPA was established as a certification body for Physician Assistants. We do not believe that it is appropriate or in the interest of the profession for a certification body to inhibit the progress of state PA practice modernization laws. Unfortunately, your organization has negated many years of hard work and wasted precious financial resources in these fine states.

In your letter that was sent to all certified PAs, you stated that your actions were in response to the removal of recertification requirements in these bills. **You also stated that this was in the interest of public safety. The leadership of AAPALM includes published experts on the malpractice and safety of PAs. There is no data in the literature or in our own research indicating that PAs pose a risk to patient and public safety without continuous certification. On behalf of the AAPALM Board of Directors and our members, as well as PAs across our nation, we ask that you refrain from further legislative lobbying activities that will have detrimental and long-lasting impacts on PA practice modernization bills across the country.**

No comparable profession requires retesting for maintenance of licensure, including physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, psychologists and pharmacists. While members of such professions may choose periodic retesting to maintain a specialty certification, none of the members of these professions is threatened with loss of her or his license to practice for failing an examination, and there are no data to suggest that the public is endangered as a result. There is no reason that the physician assistant profession should be singled out in this manner.

We do think that it is appropriate for an organization like yours to assess the initial medical knowledge of PA graduates before starting practice and would encourage you to apply your resources to the continuance and improvement of that unique goal.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Craig A. Baumgartner, PA-C, DFAAPA
President, American Academy of Physician Assistants in Legal Medicine
president@aapalm.org