Subject line: Support for House Bill 1310

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a Physician Assistant in your legislative district. I work in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ field at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I am writing to urge your support of legislation sponsored by Rep. Marcus Riccelli which will improve access to care by updating outdated practice laws and unnecessary administrative burdens for Physician Assistants operating in Washington State.

PAs are medical providers who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient’s principal healthcare professional. Upon graduation, PAs have completed at least six years of education and over 2,000 hours of clinical training. PAs are versatile and collaborative. They practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access, especially in medically underserved and rural communities where there are few or no physicians. Washington State has over 5,000 PAs with approximately 85 new Washington PA graduates each year.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, we’ve seen many health care providers leaving the medical field. Additionally, **the District of Columbia and** **20 states have updated their practice laws to allow PA collaboration** as a replacement to the outdated supervision model which encourages a PA to collaborate with one supervising physician rather than any appropriate member of the health care team. We also know that Washington-based employers are opting not to employ PAs due to current supervision requirements that are not required for other similarly educated providers. The U.S. healthcare system is undergoing dramatic transformation, and Washington should embrace team-based care as the new norm. We hope you’ll pass collaborative practice for PAs to retain and attract new medical talent to the state so that Washington can address current health care workforce shortages.

Please see the attached one-pager with additional information about the history of the PA profession, how collaboration has been implemented safely in 21 other states and jurisdictions, and how Washington can adopt this model to improve health care access in Washington without compromising patient safety.

I hope you will consider supporting HB 1310. I’m happy to answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, PA-C