Subject line: Please support SB 6240: Modernization of Physician Assistant practice

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

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

I’m writing to urge your support for a bill which will help me better meet patient needs in our community by modernizing the PA practice.

PAs are medical providers who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient’s principal healthcare professional. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative. PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality. Washington State has over 3,000 PAs with approximately 150 new Washington PA graduates each year.

I ask for your support of the Washington Academy of Physician Assistant’s bill which makes a few great changes to my practice.

1. Removes the burden of employers and PAs filing practice agreements with the Medical Commission, allowing the agreement to be kept locally as part of the PA’s hiring contract. *This expedites the hiring process for new graduates and minimizes delays for PAs accepting new positions in other parts of the State.*
2. Places the professional and personal responsibility of any act/decisions made by the PA solely on the PA, not on the supervising physician. *Physicians will be encouraged to work with PAs once the PA is responsible for patient outcomes. This will increase PAs employability.*
3. Removes physician/PA ratios at the practice site. *Some health care employers and systems want to increase PA utilization by reorganizing the practice structure.*
4. Removes remote site restrictions. *Remote site language limits access, particularly in rural areas, and modern telecommunication strategies make these restrictions obsolete.*
5. Removes the duplicate regulatory structures for PAs working with MDs and DOs, placing all PA licensing under the Medical Commission. *PAs that works with DOs will be able to get right to work without duplicative regulatory requirements.*

I hope I can count of your support for SB 6240.

Sincerely,

(Physician Assistant signature)