



**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

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PAEAonline.org • 703-548-5538

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May 11, 2018

The Honorable Adrian Smith  
320 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Terri Sewell  
2201 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Smith and Sewell:

On behalf of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) and our 235 member physician assistant (PA) programs, we're writing to applaud your leadership in advancing the PA profession through your introduction of H.R. 5506 and offer PAEA's enthusiastic support for the legislation.

The introduction of H.R. 5506 comes at a time of significant evolution for the PA profession. In recognition of significant changes in the PA practice environment, the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) has formally supported direct reimbursement from all public and private insurers for services rendered by PAs, a proposal with which PAEA is in full agreement.

H.R. 5506 would authorize direct Medicare reimbursement for services rendered by PAs beginning in July 2019. At present, PAs are unique among our health professions colleagues with respect to our inability to receive direct reimbursement from Medicare. As the contributions of PAs to interprofessional teams continue to grow and value-based care delivery models continue to develop, correcting this disparity through the elimination of this administrative barrier is a powerful step Congress can take to improve patient care.

PAEA believes this legislation represents a significant step forward in improving the ability of the PA profession to promote optimal health outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries. As the bill advances, we look forward to the opportunity to serve as a resource to your offices. If you would like additional

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information or have any questions, please contact PAEA Chief Policy & Research Officer Dave Keahey at [dkeahey@PAEAonline.org](mailto:dkeahey@PAEAonline.org) or 703-667-4339.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Mustone Alexander". The signature is written in black ink and has a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Mustone Alexander, EdD, MPH, PA-C  
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timi Agar Barwick". The signature is written in black ink and has a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Timi Agar Barwick, MPM  
Chief Executive Officer