



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

655 K Street NW, Ste. 700, Washington, DC 20001

PAEAonline.org • 703-548-5538

May 11, 2018

The Honorable Richard Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
716 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Burr, Murray, Rubio, and Nelson:

On behalf of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), we are writing to offer our strong support for S. 2668, which would create a pilot program for United States Special Operations Command (USCOM) medics seeking to become physician assistants (PAs).

Those who have served our nation in the armed forces have constituted the foundation of the PA profession for over 50 years, and encouraging them to consider careers as PAs following their period of service continues to be a high priority for PAEA and our 235 member programs. This pilot project provides clear recognition for both the need to facilitate the eventual transition of USCOM medics to civilian employment and the value that experience as a medic can provide to those in need of care at home.

Specifically, the pilot program that your bill describes would allow USCOM medics to earn credit toward a master's degree as a PA during their service, in accordance with civilian accreditation standards and in a complementary manner to the typical PA education process. PAEA believes that this approach

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represents an innovative potential solution to the issues of post-service employment for veterans as well as the national PA shortage in critical fields such as primary care.

On behalf of our membership, thank you for your leadership in recognizing the value that USCOM medics can contribute to our nation's health workforce and for your continued support of those who have had a positive and lasting influence on our profession. PAEA is proud to support this proposal and prepared to advocate for its enactment.

For additional information, please contact Chief Policy and Research Officer Dave Keahey at dkeahey@PAEAonline.org or 703-667-4339.

Sincerely,

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timi Agar Barwick". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Timi Agar Barwick, MPM
Chief Executive Officer