



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
655 K Street NW, Ste. 700, Washington, DC 20001
PAEAonline.org • 703-548-5538

February 4, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), we are writing in support of our colleagues, the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) and the Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants (WAPA), in reference to SB 515 and AB 575 – the CARES Act. The CARES Act represents a critical step forward in our colleagues' efforts to modernize PA practice in the state, which would improve patient access to care by eliminating burdensome administrative requirements and ensuring that PAs can practice to the top of their education and experience. As such, PAEA is proud to endorse the legislation.

In addition to expressing our support of the CARES Act, we would like to address the use of a 2017 PAEA report by stakeholders opposed to the bill. **PAEA is concerned that this report is being used for political purposes in a misleading manner that does not accurately reflect our organization's views.** The 2017 "Optimal Team Practice: The Right Prescription for All PAs?" report published by PAEA was based on a survey of our members concerning an earlier iteration of OTP – known as Full Practice Authority and Responsibility or FPAR – which differed substantially from the final OTP policy adopted by the AAPA House of Delegates and supported by PAEA. An amendment to the final OTP policy, which *emphasized the need for continuation of the collaborative PA-physician relationship, determined at the practice level*, addressed any FPAR-focused concerns raised by PAEA and our member programs in the 2017 report. **As such, the use of this report to suggest that PAEA is opposed to efforts such as the CARES Act to modernize PA practice is incorrect, and we strongly condemn such use by any stakeholder.**

Should you have any questions on PAEA's position on the CARES Act or on PA education issues, please do not hesitate to contact Chief Policy and Research Officer Dave Keahey, MSPH, PA-C, at dkeahey@PAEAonline.org or at (703) 667-4339.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard Straker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line crossing through the middle of the name.

Howard Straker, EdD, MPH, PA-C
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Jo Bondy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mary Jo Bondy, DHEd, MHS, PA-C
Chief Executive Officer