



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
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June 21, 2021

The Honorable Mark Kelly
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kelly and Collins:

On behalf of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), the national organization representing all 273 accredited PA programs in the United States, we are writing to thank you for your recent introduction of S. 2114 - the Student Assisted Vaccination Effort (SAVE) Act. Based upon the legislation's recognition of the unique value of PA students in regards to public health preparedness efforts, PAEA is proud to endorse this legislation and committed to collaborating with you to secure its enactment.

As widespread COVID-19 vaccination efforts began in the U.S. earlier this year, a key barrier to rapid dissemination was the availability of a sufficient workforce trained to administer vaccines. In recognition of the ability of PA and other health professions students to expand this workforce, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a PREP Act declaration amendment in the spring providing liability immunity to students participating in vaccination efforts. While current law permits the HHS Secretary to expand the definition of "covered persons" for liability immunity purposes, explicitly defining PA and other health professions students as covered persons under the PREP Act will streamline future public health response efforts. By providing appropriate legal protections to students participating

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in the distribution of medical countermeasures, the SAVE Act will facilitate a timely, efficient response to future public health threats by fully utilizing the capacity and skills of PA and other health professions students.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate on the advancement of the SAVE Act and look forward to serving as a resource to you and your staff on this legislation and other health workforce and education issues. Should you have specific questions or if you would like additional information, please contact Director of Government Relations Tyler Smith at 703-667-4356 or tsmith@PAEAonline.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Statler".

Michel Statler, MLA, PA-C
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Jo Bondy".

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