



**PA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

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PAEAonline.org • 703-548-5538

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February 2, 2024

Representative Fred Crespo  
261-S Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Senator Ann Gillespie  
Senator 27<sup>th</sup> District - Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Representative Crespo and Senator Gillespie:

On behalf of the PA Education Association (PAEA), the national organization representing all 306 accredited PA programs in the United States, we are writing to express the Association's strong support for HB 4637. This proposed legislation, which aligns with the Optimal Team Practice policy adopted by the American Academy of PAs, would significantly improve patient access to care by modernizing outdated administrative barriers to PA practice in Illinois while upholding the value of interprofessional collaboration. As such, the Association urges the Illinois legislature to support its swift enactment.

Throughout the history of the profession, PA programs have prepared students to both practice at the top of their license and to value the unique skill sets and contributions of each member of the health care team. For this reason, PAEA endorsed the final OTP policy adopted by the American Academy of PAs in 2017 which included a commitment to collaboration **determined at the practice level** based upon the experiences, skills, and capabilities of specific PAs. State limitations on PA practice that arbitrarily impose administrative restrictions on PA practice without regard to clinical expertise only serve to impose delays in patient care at a time of growing health care workforce shortages. As we seek to achieve PAEA's vision of Health for All, creating a practice environment that fully equips the PA workforce to leverage its expertise in the best interest of patients will be critical.

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This policy changes proposed by HB 4637 will allow PAs to be more easily employed at health care facilities throughout the state, reduce the possibility of patients losing access to care provided by PAs in the event of the unexpected departure of a supervising physician, and ultimately ensure better outcomes for all patients. For this reason, HB 4637 has PAEA's strong support, and we look forward to opportunities to promote its enactment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Association's position on HB 4637. Should you have specific questions or if you would like additional information, please contact Senior Director of Government Relations Tyler Smith at 703-667-4356 or [tsmith@PAEAonline.org](mailto:tsmith@PAEAonline.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole B. Burwell".

Nicole Burwell, PhD, MSHS, PA-C  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara F. Fletcher".

Sara Fletcher, PhD  
Chief Executive Officer