Physician Assistant Professional Issues: Optimal Team Practice in South Dakota

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**Background**
- Optimal team practice (OTP) is a policy meant to modernize physician assistant/associate (PA) practice laws
- OTP legislation in South Dakota (SD) includes 3 bills from 2021-2023¹-³
- All 3 failed to pass through legislature¹-³
- Prior research suggests PAs generally support OTP and related changes⁴
  - Yet only 33% willing to advocate in SD⁴
- Full practice authority (FPA) is a similar policy specific to the nurse practitioner (NP) profession
- SD FPA legislation passed in 2017⁵

**Methods**
- Qualtrics survey, 11 total questions
- IRB approval from the University of SD
- Distributed to SD PAs
- 54 total responses, 51 complete
- Data analyzed in Microsoft Excel
- Asked about understanding/agreement with OTP & related legislative changes

**Results**
- SD PA respondents:
  - 96.1% familiar with SD OTP legislation
  - 92.2% agreeable with PAs being responsible for the care they provide
  - 82.4%:
    - Agreeable with removal of supervisory agreement
    - Believe OTP would positively impact patient care and healthcare access
  - 29.4% advocated for SD OTP bills

**Further Research**
- SD NPs and physicians:
  - Knowledge/perceptions of OTP
  - Has FPA impacted NP practice?
  - Do physicians oppose OTP/FPA?
- Impacts where OTP bills have passed

**References**