



September 3, 2024

Bruce A. Scott, MD
President
American Medical Association
330 N Wabash Ave
Chicago, IL 60611-5885

Dear President Scott,

On behalf of the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), we are writing to express our growing concern over the American Medical Association's (AMA) lack of response to our request for a meeting to discuss the impact of AMA's disparaging rhetoric targeted at the physician associate (PA) profession. As outlined [in our previous letter](#), we set a target date for your organization to respond to our request for a meeting, underscoring the urgency of this matter. Regrettably, this date has now passed without a response from the AMA.

AAPA stands firm in our intention to collaborate with the AMA on a better path forward. While our two organizations may not see eye to eye on every policy, we trust that there are areas of common ground. However, the continued silence from the AMA raises concerns about your commitment to collaboration and finding solutions to strengthen America's healthcare workforce and improve patient care. We urge the AMA to reconsider its stance and join us in addressing the pressing needs of today's healthcare environment, rather than maintaining outdated practices that no longer serve the best interests of patients.

New Research on the Harmful Impact of the AMA's Disparagement of PAs

Since our previous letter, AAPA has engaged with PAs from across the country to gauge their perspectives on the impact of the AMA's "scope creep" campaign. The results of the survey, which reflect the opinions of more than 4,900 PAs, are deeply troubling:

- 96% say it has had a negative impact on addressing healthcare workforce shortages.
- 95.2% believe it has negatively impacted efforts to expand access to care for patients.
- 90.4% of PAs report that the campaign has negatively impacted the healthcare system.
- 81.0% report the campaign has had a negative or very negative effect on their ability to provide care.
- 81.7% reported a negative or very negative impact of the campaign on their relationships with patients.
- 91.9% assert it has negatively impacted patients' trust in the U.S. healthcare system.
- 89.5% believe the AMA's scope creep campaign has negatively impacted patients' understanding of PA qualifications to provide care.

It is clear from these findings that the AMA's intentional use of misleading information about PAs' ability to provide safe, high-quality care has serious consequences for our healthcare system and patients. When patients are misled or misinformed about the qualifications and expertise of PAs, they may delay seeking care when a highly-trained and qualified PA is available and able to treat them. Patients deserve to have full confidence in the qualifications and expertise of all healthcare providers. Given that PAs treat and connect with patients often during some of their most vulnerable moments, it is our responsibility to foster trust in PAs to ensure their needs are being met with quality care.

Thousands of PAs Speak Out Against AMA-Backed Rhetoric

Additionally, this month, [over 8,000 PAs signed a letter](#) expressing their urgent concerns about the AMA's approach (letter enclosed).

"The AMA's rhetoric misrepresents the contributions of the nation's 178,000 PAs and does not reflect the views of many physicians. The most effective healthcare for people occurs when clinicians work together as a team, and many of our physician colleagues recognize and value the critical role PAs play in patient care and believe in the power of team-based care over preserving outdated hierarchies," the signatories wrote.

The signatures on this letter represent a small fraction of the larger PA community that shares these urgent concerns.

For many years, AAPA has pressed for constructive dialogue – while also striving to provide our case for modernized PA laws to lawmakers in a way that is respectful to the AMA and the vital role of America's physicians. However, your ongoing resistance to change, intentional degrading of other health professions, and the resulting impact on patient care compels us to speak more directly and openly with lawmakers and the public about the deceitful measures the AMA is taking through its "scope creep" campaign.

That said, it remains our desire to meet with the AMA before we enter a new legislative year so that we may come together with agreed-upon solutions to lawmakers. Our patients deserve better, and we are committed to ensuring that their care and confidence in our healthcare system are not compromised by misinformation and outdated care delivery models.

Sincerely,



Jason Prevelige, DMSc, MBA, PA-C, DFAAPA
President and Chair, Board of Directors
AAPA



Lisa M. Gables, CPA
Chief Executive Officer
AAPA

CC: James L. Madara, MD
CEO and Executive Vice President,
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