



July 19, 2017

The Honorable Julia Brownley
U.S. House of Representatives
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Woodall
U.S. House of Representatives
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Brownley and Woodall:

On behalf of the more than 115,000 PAs (physician assistants) represented by the American Academy of PAs (AAPA), I am writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 2547, the Veterans Expanded Trucking Opportunities (VETOPPS) Act of 2017, and to congratulate you for its recent passage in the House of Representatives.

Your bipartisan legislation will make it easier for veterans to receive the Department of Transportation-mandated health examination required to hold a commercial driver's license by allowing all qualified Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical providers, including PAs, to provide this examination. Only physicians within the VA are allowed to provide these examinations under current law, creating an unnecessary hurdle for veterans who are working to become licensed commercial drivers.

More than 2,200 PAs provide care full-time at the VA, delivering high quality medical care to our nation's veterans in virtually all health settings. The rigorous education and clinical training of PAs enables them to be fully qualified and equipped to manage healthcare services needed by veterans. Your legislation recognizes that health examinations are well within the accepted scope of practice for PAs, and the bill will benefit veterans by removing unnecessary red tape. AAPA also appreciates that S. 1393 will eliminate an unreasonable barrier to PAs practicing to the full extent of their training and education.

AAPA is very pleased to support the Veterans Expanded Trucking Opportunities Act of 2017, and we look forward to working with you to enact it. For further information, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact Tate Heuer, AAPA Vice President, Federal Advocacy, at 571-319-4338 or at theuer@aapa.org.

Sincerely,

Tillie Fowler
Senior Vice President
Advocacy and Government Relations