

1 **2019-C-04-SAAAPA** **Veteran Support – Joint Task Force**

2

3 2019-C-04 Resolved

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5 The House of Delegates recommends that AAPA partner with PAEA and other
6 appropriate stakeholders in the development of a joint task force to undertake research,
7 identify policy solutions, and develop practical approaches regarding the recruitment and
8 matriculation of veterans into PA school.

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10 **Rationale/Justification**

11 The PA profession originated with the recruitment and training of four U.S. Navy Hospital
12 Corpsman due to medical provider shortages^[1, 2]. Their extensive training and experience treating
13 high-acuity patients in austere and combat environments provided the foundation for the PA
14 profession^[3]. Today, only 3.7 percent of matriculating PAs have military experience^[4, 5, 6, 7]. This
15 decline has occurred due to the evolution of the PA profession. Current military personnel and
16 veterans pursuing healthcare-related career fields have difficulty translating their military
17 medical experience and education to the civilian world as they face the following barriers^[6, 7, 8]:

18

- 19 1) navigating complex veteran educational benefits,
20 2) translating military education and training to meet civilian academic requirements,
21 3) meeting credentialing requirements,
22 4) overcoming limited communication and knowledge about health care opportunities
23 and,
24 5) developing academic preparedness.

25

26 As the PA profession has evolved, so have the challenges faced by those historically involved in
27 the foundation of the profession. This proposal recommends that AAPA partner with PAEA and
28 other stakeholders to appoint and support a joint task force to evaluate the obstacles and suggest
29 solutions for aspiring PA veterans.

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31 **Related AAPA Policy**

32 HP 3200.6.2

33 AAPA supports efforts to help US military veterans become PAs.

34 *[Adopted 2011, amended 2016]*

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36 **Possible Negative Implications**

37 No negative implications anticipated.

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39 **Financial Impact**

40 Anticipated financial impact would include costs associated with holding one in-person task
41 force meeting, and staff and administrative costs association with supporting any additional
42 teleconferences required to complete the objectives of the group.

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44 **Reference**

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- 54 5. *Time Line*. 2019 [cited 2019 February 17]; Available from: <https://pahx.org/timeline/>.
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58 *applying to physician assistant educational programs*. J Physician Assist Educ, 2012.
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- 60 8. Snyder, C.R., et al., *Pathways for Military Veterans to Enter Healthcare Careers*. 2016,
61 Center for Workforce Studies: Seattle, WA. p. 1-19.

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63 **Signature**

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