



June 17, 2021

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

The American Academy of PAs (AAPA), on behalf of the nearly 150,000 PAs (physician assistants) throughout the United States, extends its congratulations on your confirmation as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

We applaud your long-standing commitment to improving access to care, especially for children and underserved populations. For many years PAs have been on the forefront of delivering needed care to Medicare and Medicaid patients in all specialties and health care settings. The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased the health care system's reliance on PAs as indispensable professionals whose generalist education and training provides them with the clinical flexibility to meet the vital needs of patients in an ever-changing health care environment.

We recognize the critical challenges facing our country's health care delivery system. Fully utilizing the expertise and clinical skills of PAs, as they practice medicine to the top of their license, will be an essential part of the continuing effort necessary to meet those challenges.

AAPA and the PA profession look forward to partnering with CMS to work toward ending the COVID-19 pandemic, expanding access to patient-centered affordable healthcare, supporting health care equity and participating in innovative care models to improve the health of the nation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gables, CPA  
Chief Executive Officer