

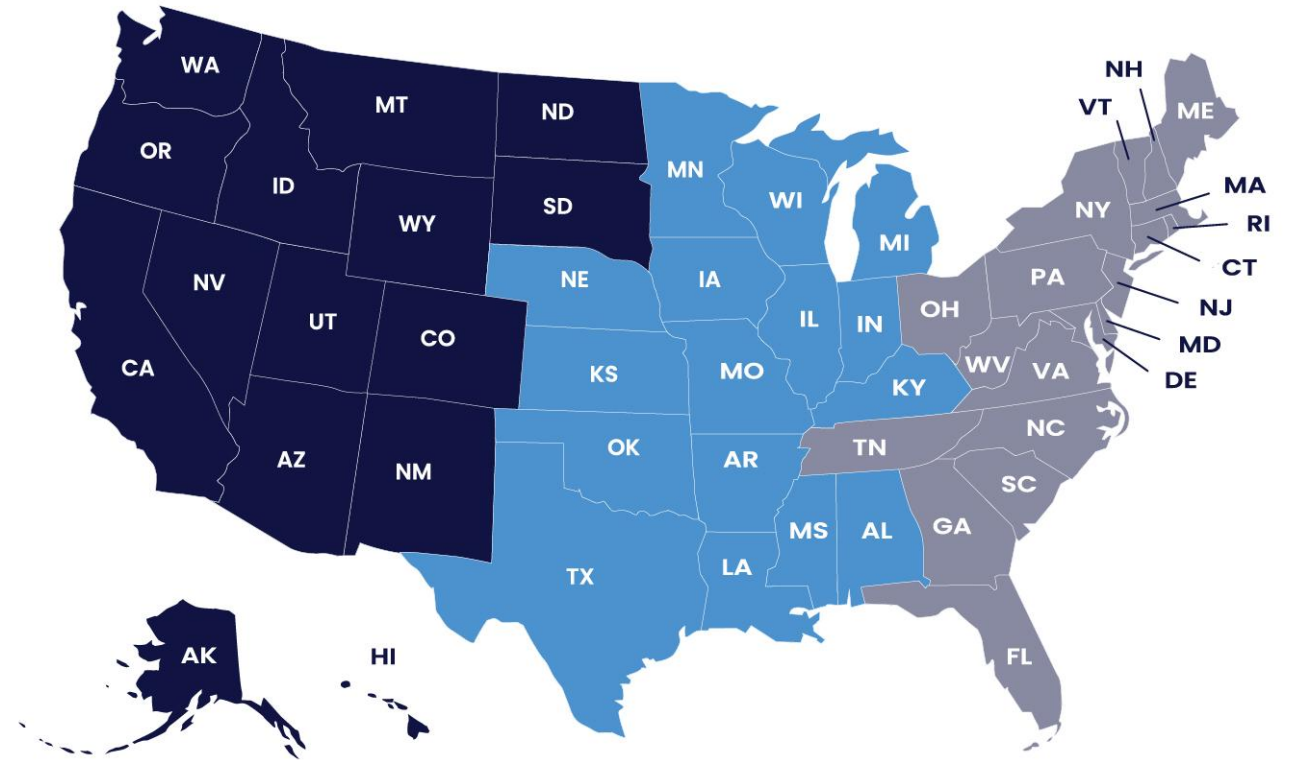


American Academy of
Physician Associates

2026 Session Wrap-Up Webinar

State Advocacy & Outreach

AAPA State Regions & Staff Contacts



■ **East Region:** Meghan, mpudeler@aapa.org

■ **Central Region:** Aileen, aberquist@aapa.org

■ **West Region:** Eric, eheydorn@aapa.org

Michael, Senior Manager, State Advocacy & Outreach, mbartlett@aapa.org

2026 State Advocacy at a Glance

- 16 modernization bills enacted
- 9 compact bills passed
 - 28 Total
- 4 title change/recognition victories
 - 8 Total
- 40 + legislative campaigns supported
- 18 lobby days held

Agenda

- **Key Legislative Wins**
- **Trends and Themes**
- **Interim & Elections Planning**
- **PA Licensure Compact Update**
- **Preparing for 2027 Session**



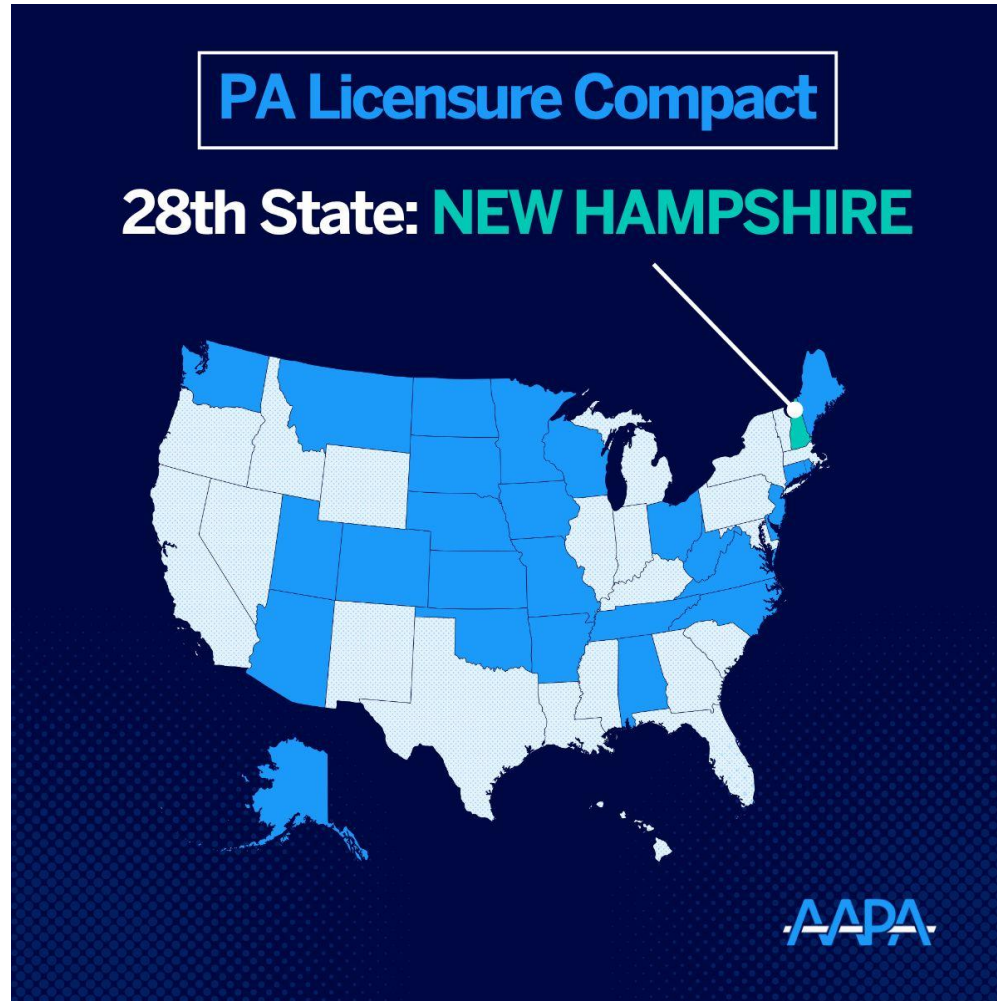
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2026 Legislative Wins

Michael Bartlett

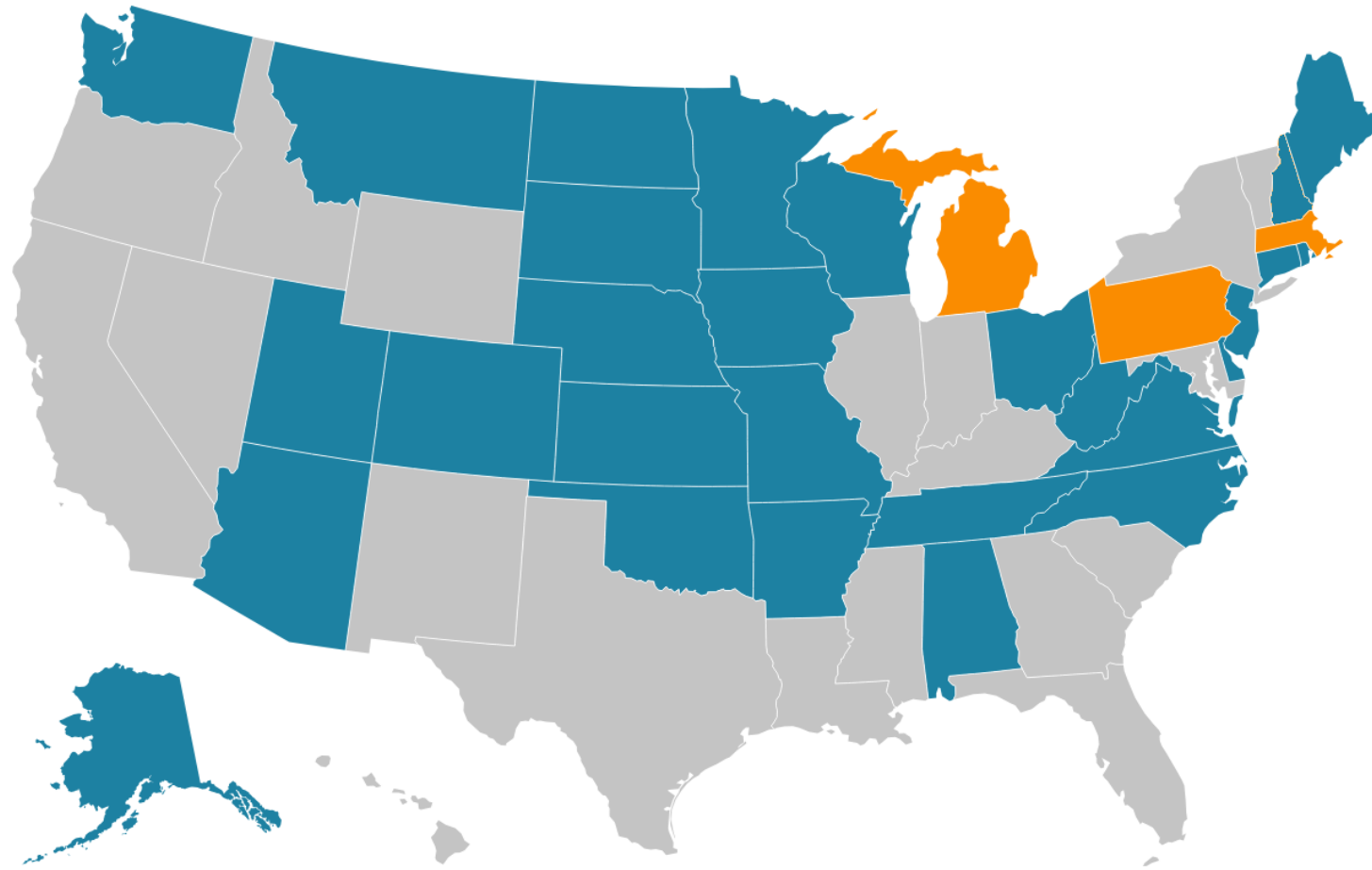
Senior Manager
State Advocacy & Outreach

PA Compact – Bills Passed



PA Compact – Active Bills

■ Legislation Filed
 ■ Legislation Enacted - Compact Member
 ■ No Active Legislation



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Title Change

40

CO Name Changes

6

Statutory Changes
(Alaska, Delaware, Iowa,
Maine, New Hampshire,
and Oregon)

2

States Passed Title Recognition
Legislation
(Kansas and Wisconsin)



Modernization – Bills Passed



Eliminates Practice Agreements for Certain PAs:

- Alaska (SB 89)
- Delaware (HB 325)
- Maine (LD 2088)
- Virginia (HB 746)

Scope Determined at Practice Level, PAs Can Prescribe Schedule II Drugs:

- Kentucky (SB 116)

Changes Supervision to Collaboration, Eliminates Ratios:

- Kansas (HB 2702)

Modernization – Bills Passed



Eliminates non-compete agreements:

- New Hampshire (SB 402)
- Virginia (HB 627)

PAs can pronounce death, sign death certificates:

- Delaware (HB 224)

Makes PAs legally responsible for the care they provide:

- Nebraska (LB 912)

Modernization – Bills Passed



Utah (SB 31)

- Lowers hour requirement from 10,000 to 8,500.

Maryland (HB 377, SB 326)

- Parity with other healthcare practitioners.

Vermont (SB 163)

- Adds PAs to hospital patients' "bill of rights."

Modernization – Active Bills



Massachusetts (H.2371 / S.1502)

- Removes supervision after 2,000 hours of experience.

Michigan (HB 5522)

- Removes practice agreement after 1,000 hours of experience.

Ohio (HB 963)

- Changes supervision to collaboration.
- Eliminates ratios.
- Allows for direct pay.



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What We Saw: Trends & Takeaways

Aileen Berquist

Assistant Director
State Advocacy & Outreach
Central Region

Common Barriers

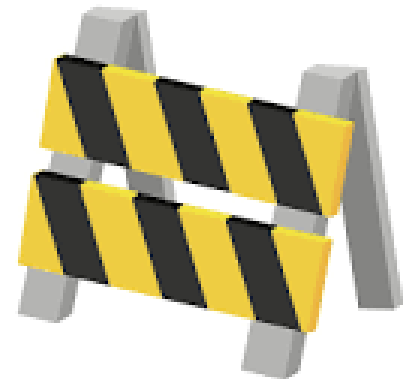
Education

- Misunderstanding or lack of knowledge about the profession

Legislative Gridlock and Politics

Multiple states with popular bills stuck in gridlock due to:

- Budget focus
- Competing priorities
- Pure political stalemate



Trends in our Favor

- Legislative frustration with medical society tactics
- Rural health pushes from federal and state governments
- Recognition of serious workforce shortages + PAs as part of solution
- Practice modernization vs scope change narrative



Advocacy Tactics that Broke Through

Clean, concise, consistent messaging

Targeted partnerships

Workforce angle

Enthusiastic, engaged sponsors



Takeaways

- ✓ Early partnership building mattered
- ✓ Simplicity won over complexity
- ✓ Rural workforce messaging resonated
- ✓ Education remained essential—even in friendly legislatures
- ✓ Relationships mattered more than partisan politics



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Interim & Elections Planning

Eric Heydorn

Director

State Advocacy and Outreach

West Region

Summer Planning

Projected Campaign Planning Process

Note: We have included estimated timeframes for each phase in the planning process. Each organization and campaign is different, and time requirements may vary.

Phase 1: CO Pre-Work

Est. 2-3 hrs.

- Review Campaign Planning Prep Document
- Secure approvals of policy priorities and agreement to campaign planning
- Complete assessment & prep work (to be provided by AAPA)
- Identify participants in campaign planning process

Phase 2: CO + AAPA

Est. 1 hr.

- Initial call to develop meeting agenda and sketch out draft meeting goals_-
- Schedule campaign planning date

Phase 3: CO + AAPA

Est. 5 – 6 hrs.

- In-person campaign planning session
 - Confirm goals
 - Identify targets
 - Discuss coalition partnerships
 - Identify action items + do SWOT analysis
 - Plan implementation
 - Wrap-up
 - Schedule check in

Phase 4: CO

TBD based on plan

- Implementation with support from AAPA
- Virtual follow up calls

- **Legislative Strategy Meetings**
- **Ground Softening for Future Work**
- **Education for Key Lawmakers and State Agencies**
- **Lobbyist Re-evaluation**

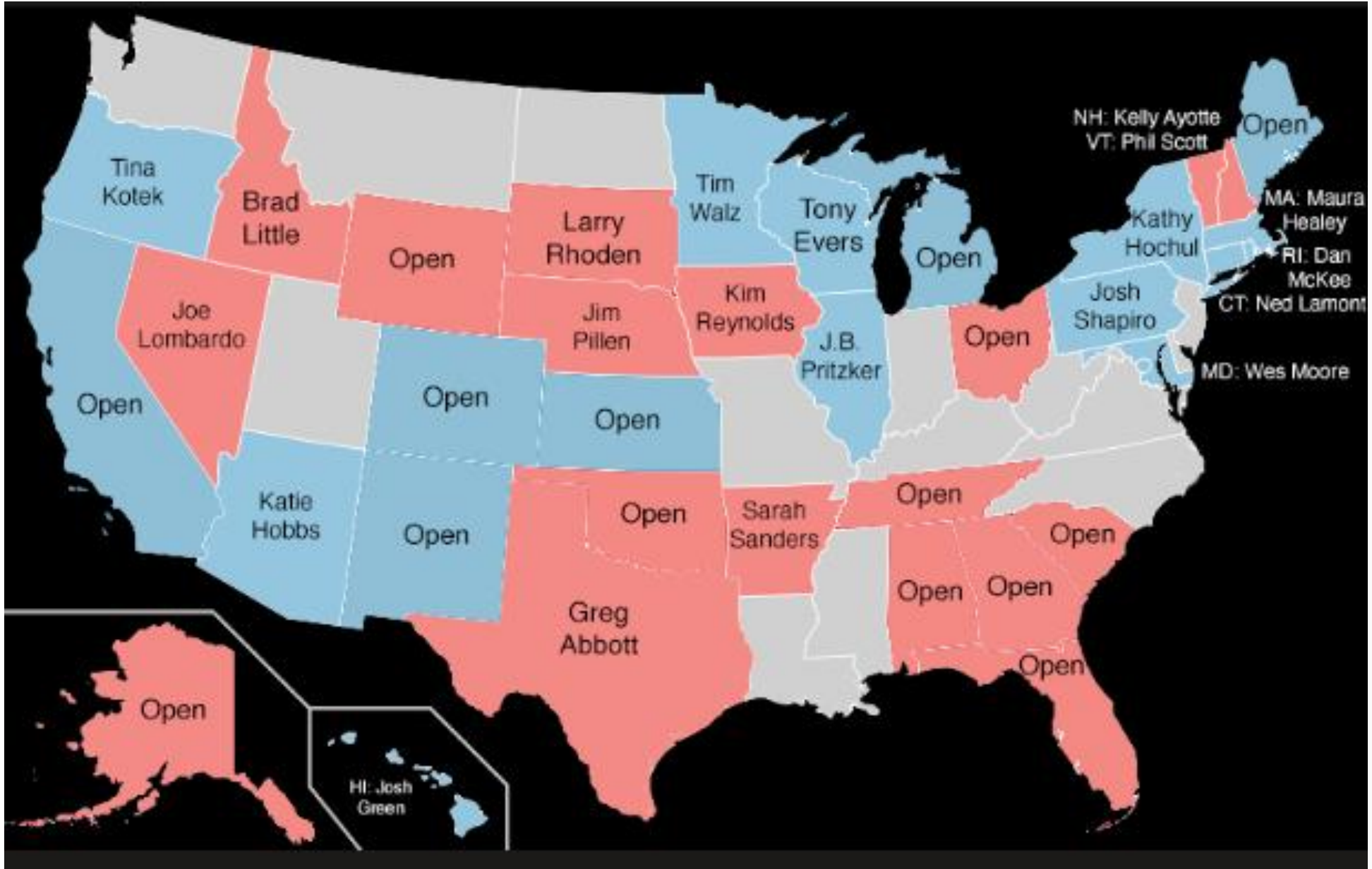
Rural Health Transformation

- **Attend committee meetings**
- **Review your state's RHTP application**
- **Know the grant process**
 - **When are grant programs starting**
 - **Who is eligible**

Elections & Outreach



Governor Races



Summer Actions for Elections & Outreach



- Attend townhalls of your elected officials
- Attend candidate forums
- Know where to find your representatives
 - Ex: Coffee with your State Senator, Meet the Speaker, etc

States to Watch for 2027

Compact

- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Massachusetts*
- Maryland
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- Pennsylvania*

Practice

Modernization

- California
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Illinois
- Michigan
- Massachusetts*
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- New York
- Ohio*
- Pennsylvania*

Title Change

- New Jersey*
- North Carolina
- Ohio*
- Oklahoma



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PA Licensure Compact

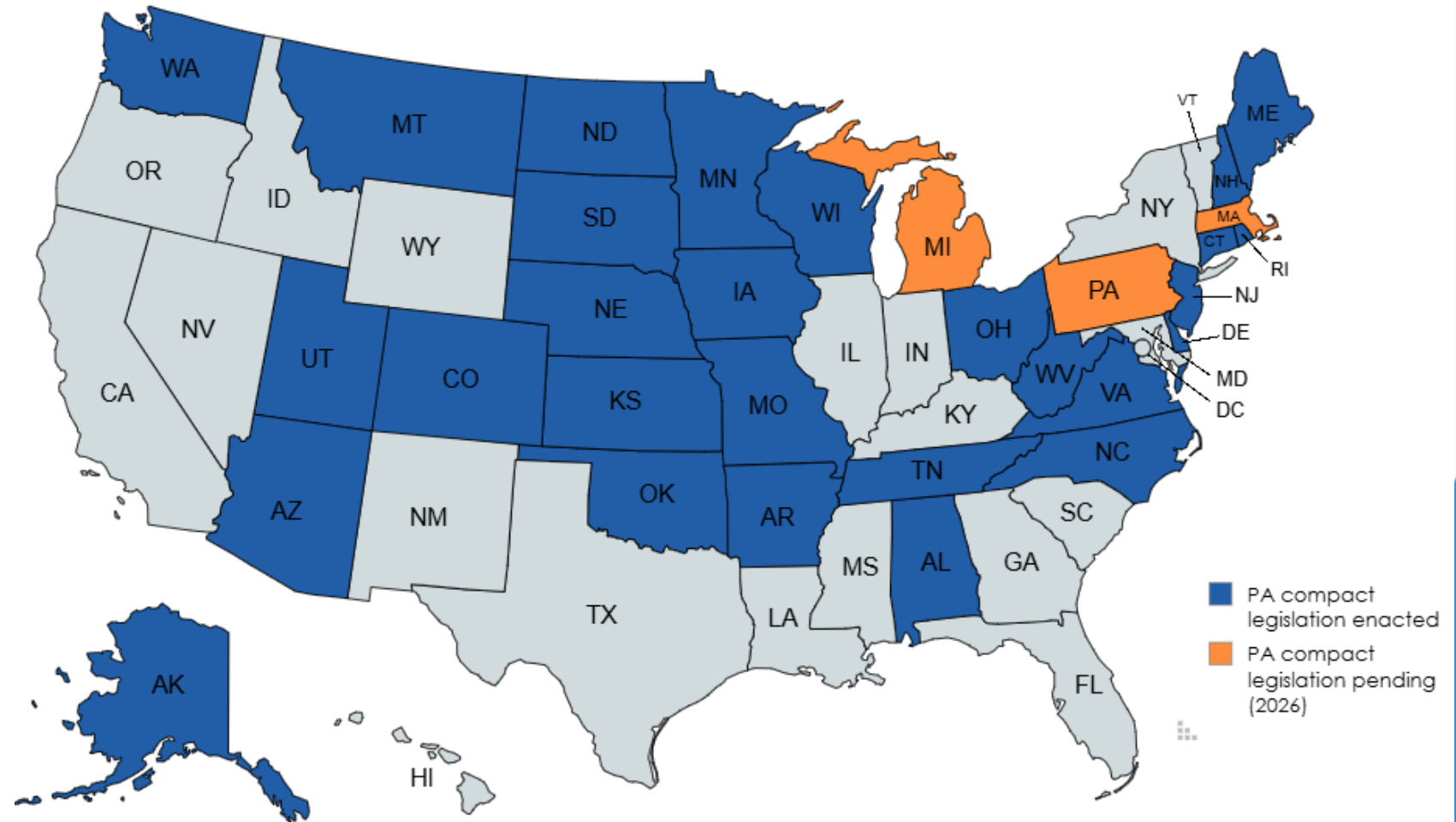
Meghan Pudeler

Director

State Advocacy and Outreach
East Region

PA Compact Status

- 28 states have enacted the PA compact
- Legislation is awaiting the governor's signature in Michigan and still under consideration in MA and PA
- Legislation was introduced in 18 states this session



PA Licensure Compact: How It Works

PA Compact is a Mutual Recognition Model licensure compact that is similar in form and function to other occupational licensing compacts

PA Compact member states agree to mutually recognize licenses of other compact member states through a Compact Privilege

States become PA compact member states by enacting PA compact legislation

The Compact Privilege is the state specific authorization granted to a PA by a compact member state to practice (equivalent to a license)

PAs apply for a privilege to practice through the central PA compact commission database

PA Compact Status

- PAs cannot currently utilize PA compact to get compact privileges
- Anticipate PAs to be able to utilize compact by early to mid 2027
- Compact commission was activated when the 7th state (Virginia) was enacted in April 2024 – compact commission was formed and first meeting took place September 2024
 - Each member state's board that regulates the profession appoints a delegate to the compact commission – AAPA and NCCPA have an ex officio non-voting member on the commission
 - All meetings open to the public and you can receive updates on pacompact.org

PA Compact Commission Updates

- Compact commission is working on Rules and the data system
- The data system is the centralized technology platform that will connect state regulatory boards and will allow PAs to apply for practice privileges in multiple states. It will also allow member states to share licensure, compliance, and disciplinary information in real time.
- Compact commission committees meet on a regular schedule:
 - Executive: every 2nd Wednesday at 3pm ET
 - Rules: every 2nd Monday
 - Communications: 1st Thursday of March, June, September, December
 - Finance: 2nd Tuesday of March, June, September, and December

PA Compact Commission Update: Rules Committee

- Rules committee has worked on several rules and finalized:
 - Rule 1 – Rule on Rulemaking
 - Rule 3 – Compact Privilege
 - Rule 4 – Compact Data System, Confidentiality, and Information Sharing
- Potential rules: elections, records requests, participating state compliance
- Rules committee working to finalize:
 - Draft Rule 5: Joint investigations
 - Draft Rule 7: State Compliance
- Rule 6 on Fees is being held in Executive Committee pending the Finance Committee's recommendation on a commission privilege fee, which will be incorporated into the rule before it is sent out for public comment.

What can you do?

- If your state has not joined the PA compact:
 - Consult with your AAPA state director - AAPA can offer several resources as you prepare to introduce the PA compact including presenting to your members, your CO board, your regulatory agency
 - Please ask your AAPA state director to review legislation before introduction
- If your state is a PA compact member state:
 - Continue to watch for updates and share with your members
 - Engage with your compact commissioner and regulatory board as the compact continues to work towards operationalization
- All compact commission meetings are open to the public and rules are available for public comment – you can join meetings even if your state has not enacted the compact.



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Preparing for 2027 Session

Dana Carter

Vice President

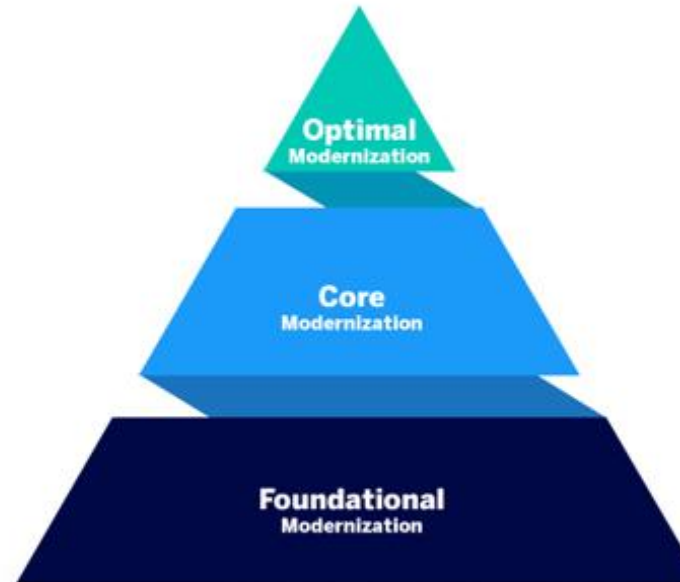
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State CO Grant

Applications accepted from October 1 – November 1



PA Practice Modernization



Optimal Modernization

- Removal of the legal tether between a PA and physician (such as a requirement for a written agreement)
- A separate PA regulatory board or one or more full voting PA member(s) on the medical/healing arts board
- Direct pay to PAs (as opposed to practice/employer)

Core Modernization Examples

- PA Licensure Compact
- Title Change
- Harmonization Acts
- Form Authentication (death certificates, handicap placards, POLST, MOLST, home health orders)
- Move from "Supervision" to "Collaboration"
- Scope of practice determined by PA's education, training & experience
- PAs "practice medicine"
- PAs responsible for care provided
- Eliminate physician delegation

Foundational Modernization

- "Licensure" as the regulatory term
- Scope of practice determined at the practice level
- Full prescriptive authority
- Adaptable proximity
- Co-signature requirements determined at the practice level
- No restrictions on the ratio of PAs to MDs or DOs

Selection Process

- Financial need
- Political viability
- Alignment with national priorities
- Level of engagement



Additional Resources Provided by AAPA State Advocacy & Outreach Team

In addition to grant support, the AAPA SAO Team and Directors will continue to offer ongoing support to all COs including:

- **Strategic planning assistance**
- **Bill drafting guidance**
- **Coalition development and partnership building**
- **Communications and messaging support**
- **Creation of legislative tools and resources**



State Advocacy Planning

- Schedule legislative meetings
- Meet newly elected lawmakers
- Review your strategic advocacy plan
- Identify partners
- Connect with Regulatory Board
- Prepare 2027 legislation
- Continually engage membership
- Submit your State Advocacy Grant application
- Stay engaged with your State Director

2026 Leadership & Advocacy Summit

- Sept. 24–26, 2026
- Thursday Morning: Advocacy Training
- Thursday Afternoon: Hill Day
- Friday/Saturday: Interactive Learning & Built-In Networking

