

PA Week Proclamation Toolkit For Constituent Organizations (COs)

This toolkit was developed to encourage COs to engage with their local and state governments to secure proclamations recognizing PA Week (October 6-12) and to elevate awareness of the PA profession. For assistance with customizing this template and seeking publication, please contact advocacy@aapa.org.

Step 1: Prepare Your Request

Suggested Timeline:

- **8 weeks out:** Identify appropriate contact (e.g., governor's office, mayor, town council).
- **6 weeks out:** Submit proclamation request with sample language.
- **3–4 weeks out:** Follow up by phone/email.
- **1 week out:** Promote signed proclamation on social media and within your membership.

Step 2: Sample Proclamation Language

*Complete the **bold** phrases to finalize a proclamation. Follow guidelines from the official's office to request the proclamation.*

WHEREAS, quality, cost-effective, and patient-centered healthcare is essential to the well-being and quality of life of all people in **[city/state/jurisdiction]**; and

WHEREAS, physician associates/assistants (PAs) are licensed clinicians who practice medicine in every specialty and setting; and

WHEREAS, PAs diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, prescribe medications, perform medical procedures, assist in surgery, and develop and manage treatment plans; and

WHEREAS, PAs expand access to high-quality care in hospitals, clinics, rural and underserved communities, and other healthcare settings; and

WHEREAS, PAs provide compassionate, evidence-based care and empower patients and families to be active participants in their health; and

WHEREAS, PA Week is observed October 6-12 to recognize the PA profession and its contributions to patients and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, [name and title of official], do hereby proclaim October 6–12, 2026 as PA WEEK in [city/state/jurisdiction], and encourage all residents to recognize the contributions of PAs to the health and well-being of our community.

Step 3: Template Request Letter or Email

Dear [Governor/Mayor/Council Member],

On behalf of [Your CO Name], we respectfully request that your office issue a proclamation recognizing **PA Week**, October 6–12, 2026, to honor the contributions of physician associates/assistants (PAs) to the health and well-being of our community.

PAs in [State/City] practice in hospitals, clinics, schools, and public health systems, and other healthcare settings, providing high-quality, patient-centered care to people of all backgrounds. This proclamation will help raise awareness of the vital role PAs play in expanding access to care and improving the health of our communities.

We have attached sample language to make the process as seamless as possible. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Thank you for your leadership and partnership in recognizing the healthcare professionals who serve communities across our state.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Title], [CO Name]
[Email / Phone]

Step 4: Amplify & Celebrate

Once your proclamation is secured:

- Take a **photo with the official document** (and any leaders who sign it)
- Share it on **social media** using #PAweek and tag @aapaorg on Instagram and X (previously Twitter) and @American Academy of Physician Associates on LinkedIn and Facebook
- Email AAPA to be included in national recognition
- Highlight the proclamation in your newsletter or website
- Distribute a press release (sample below)

Questions? Need Help?

Contact your AAPA staff liaison or a member of the Advocacy Team, or email advocacy@aapa.org, for guidance or examples from other states.

Let's celebrate and elevate the PA profession together during PA Week 2026!

PA's Go Beyond

Complete the **bold** phrases to finalize a press release. Follow guidelines from your local newspaper to submit the release.

Contact: **[Spokesperson Name, Email, Phone]**

[City/State/University] Declares October 6-12 National PA Week

[CITY], [STATE] (Month Day, Year)—Today, **[City/State/University]** officially declared October 6-12 National PA Week through a proclamation put forward by **[Organization]**.

PA's, or physician associates/assistants, are medical professionals who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's principal healthcare provider. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality.

There are currently **[Number of PAs]** practicing in **[State]** and more than 200,000 board-certified PAs nationwide.

[Insert quote from official at your organization OR state/city official OR supportive physician]

Example: "PAs enhance the delivery of high-quality healthcare and are a valuable asset to any medical team. PAs are committed to team-based care and dedicated to delivering effective and efficient healthcare for patients in **[State]**."

Throughout the week, PAs and PA students will participate in PA Week on social media, hold events in their communities, and work to raise awareness of the profession. **[Organization]**, the membership organization representing PAs in **[State]**, plans to **[Insert PA Week plans, if applicable]**.

PA Week, celebrated every year from October 6-12 by the American Academy of Physician Associates, recognizes the PA profession and its contributions to healthcare. The starting date, October 6, honors the anniversary of the first graduating class of PAs from the Duke University PA program in 1987.

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About [Organization]

Insert more information about the chapter. 2-4 sentences