

**Hearing Date:** March 14, 2023

**Committee:** Finance

**Bill:** [SB674 – Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners \(Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2023\)](#)

**Position:** SUPPORT (Favorable)

This is a letter in **Support of SB 674- PA Modernization Act.**

As a PA for 24 years, I have seen many instances where physician assistants were unable to initiate timely care, certification, or orders for patients due to outdated regulations. Up till now, physician assistants have piecemealed additions to physician assistant regulation. The most recent example was allowing PAs to order home health care for patients. Our counterpart nurse practitioners, who often fulfill the same role within the healthcare team, have had these privileges for years.

Historically, PAs have not had strong lobbying efforts or advocacy due to our smaller membership numbers, therefore PAs were often left out of the conversation when outlining who is able to authorize certain orders or sign for certification, despite having the adequate training. Realizing the barriers to carry out these orders and having a greater membership of PAs (and PAs affected by these limitations) has led to this proposed bill; to “right-size” PAs’ ability to care for our patients in line with other licensed healthcare providers.

In an emergency room overnight, there is often one physician and one physician assistant. When a psychiatric patient is evaluated, I may be the primary person caring for the patient yet cannot provide a second signature to certify this patient for psychiatric care. The patient must sit overnight awaiting another physician, who has never interacted with the patient, to sign this paperwork. These delays have multiple downstream effects including delay in psychiatric bed placement resulting in emergency department overcrowding. The most concerning consequence we have seen is increased volatile outbursts from the patients due to prolonged emergency department stays which have resulted in violence against our emergency department staff and increased use of chemical restraints for these patients.

Please support this bill to allow all members of the advanced practice health care team to care for our patients. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.



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