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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

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September 27, 2017

Jennifer L. Dorn
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Physician Assistants
2318 Mill Road, Suite 1300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Optimal Team Practice

Dear Ms. Dorn:

Thank you for your correspondence, sharing the progress of the American Academy of Physician Assistants' (AAPA) Task Force on the Future of Physician Assistant Practice Authority and AAPA's resultant new policy. I am pleased to hear that AAPA continues to share our commitment to team practice. The AMA has long valued the commitment of physician assistants to the team-based model of care, and greatly respects the contributions physician assistants make to the health care team. Physician assistants are an integral part of physician-led health care teams across the country.

We are nonetheless deeply concerned about the practical implications of AAPA's policy and related guidance such as AAPA's revised Guidelines for State Regulation of PAs (Guidelines) and anticipated revised Model State Legislation for physician assistants. In particular, we believe that AAPA's policy and Guidelines could fragment the health care team by explicitly removing provisions in state law and regulation that require a relationship with a physician in order for physician assistants to practice; encouraging independent regulation of physician assistants; and supporting direct reimbursement to physician assistants. We further note a lack of any regulatory mechanism by which to ensure that AAPA's Guidelines are not abused by physician assistants who wish to practice independent of physician supervision, collaboration, or oversight.

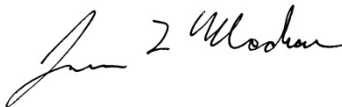
Taken together, we cannot help but conclude that AAPA's policy and guidance represents not a reaffirmation of the physician assistant profession's commitment to team-based practice, but rather, a roadmap to independent physician assistant practice.

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Physician-led, team-based health care is one step in ensuring that patients receive the most patient-centered, highest quality care possible. All professions in a health care team bring with them great strengths and unique perspectives that can be utilized when looking at how to provide the safest, best possible care to patients. With this spirit of teamwork in mind, I hope you will take this feedback into consideration as your staff revises the AAPA Model State Legislation for Physician Assistants and contemplates future revisions to the Guidelines.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Schleiter, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at kristin.schleiter@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4783.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim L Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD