

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security &
Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security &
Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

September 19, 2022

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Chairman Peters, and Ranking Member Portman:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and constituent organizations representing the more than 159,000 physician assistants (PAs) and their patients in the United States, we are writing in support of the *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act* H.R. 6087, which passed the House of Representatives on June 7 with strong bipartisan support. We thank the Senate for your continued support of patients and your commitment to ensuring that all Americans have access to high-quality healthcare services.

Currently, all US federal and postal employees receive workers compensation coverage for employment-related injuries and disease through the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA). However, FECA does not cover medical care provided by PAs or nurse practitioners (NPs) within the current definition of "*medical, surgical, and hospital services...*", meaning once a federal or postal employee is injured on the job, *they can no longer receive healthcare from a PA*, even if that PA is their primary care provider (PCP) through their federal health insurance program. This undue and unnecessary restriction negatively impacts our federal workforce, especially those in rural and underserved areas.

PAs provide high-quality healthcare and are recognized providers in Medicare, Medicaid, and nearly every state and federal healthcare program, including state workers' compensation programs. PAs are included in the definition of an "*acceptable medical source*" by the Social Security Administration and thousands of PAs are federal employees themselves and practice within the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the Public Health Service, and Indian Health Services. FECA is the outlying federal program that does not recognize the critical role PAs play in our healthcare system.

PAs practice in all medical and surgical specialties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and the uniformed services. PAs provide high-quality, cost-effective medical care in every specialty and setting, undertake rigorous education and clinical training, and are well established as trusted medical professionals. The *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act* would ensure that all federal employees have access to high-quality healthcare from the provider of their choice and would align FECA with state workers compensation programs to recognize

PAs and NPs as covered providers. All Americans deserve timely access to quality healthcare, especially our federal workforce in rural and underserved areas who already face challenges in the daily function of their job serving this great nation. We urge you to introduce and pass this critical legislation and support our federally employed patients.

Sincerely,

American Academy of PAs
African Heritage PA Caucus
Alabama Society of Physician Assistants
Alaska Academy of PAs
American Academy of Nephrology PAs
Arizona State PA Association
Arkansas Academy of Physician Assistants
Association for Physician Associates in Obstetrics and Gynecology
Association of Physician Assistants in Oncology
Association of Plastic Surgery PAs
California Academy of PAs
Colorado Academy of PAs
Connecticut Academy of PAs
Delaware Academy of PAs
District of Columbia Academy of PAs
Florida Academy of PAs
Georgia Association of Physician Assistants
Geriatric Medicine PAs
Hawaii Academy of PAs
Idaho Academy of Physician Assistants
Illinois Academy of Physician Assistants
Indiana Academy of PAs
Iowa PA Society
Jewish Association of PAs
Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants
Kentucky Academy of Physician Assistants
La Academia de Asociados Médicos de Puerto Rico
LBGT PA Caucus
Lifestyle Medicine PAs
Louisiana Academy of Physician Assistants
Maine Association of Physician Assistants
Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants
Massachusetts Association of Physician Assistants
Michigan Academy of PAs
Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants
Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants
Missouri Academy of PAs
Montana Academy of PAs
Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants
Nevada Academy of PAs
New Hampshire Society of PAs

New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants
New Mexico Academy of Physician Assistants
New York State Society of PAs
North Carolina Academy of PAs
North Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants
Ohio Association of Physician Assistants
Oklahoma Academy of Physician Assistants
Oregon Society of Physician Assistants
PA Academy of Vermont
PA Moms
PAs for Oral Health
PAs for Women Empowerment
PAs in Pain Medicine
PAs in Virtual Medicine and Telemedicine
PAs in Wilderness Medicine
Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants
Physician Associates for Latino Health
Rhode Island Academy of Physician Assistants
Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants
Society of Ophthalmology Physician Assistants
Society of Physician Assistants in Otorhinolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery
South Carolina Academy of PAs
South Dakota Academy of PAs
Tennessee Academy of PAs
Texas Academy of PAs
United States Virgin Islands Academy of PAs
Utah Academy of Physician Assistants
Veterans Affairs Physician Assistant Association
Virginia Academy of PAs
Washington Academy of PAs
Wisconsin Academy of PAs
Wyoming Association of Physician Assistants