



## THE NEVADA ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES

February 13, 2026

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners  
9600 Gateway Dr.  
Reno, NV 89521

Dear Board Members,

The Nevada Academy of Physician Associates (NAPA) respectfully submits this report to update the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners on critical healthcare workforce initiatives that will significantly impact Nevada's rural and frontier communities. We seek to foster collaboration as we prepare for the upcoming legislative session and work together to maximize federal funding opportunities while improving healthcare access for all Nevadans.

### **Nevada's Rural Health Transformation Program Award**

As you may know, Nevada has been awarded \$179,931,608 under the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program. These funds will continue to be distributed across five budget periods (FY27–FY30) to support sustainable improvements in rural healthcare delivery and workforce capacity. We appreciate that Nevada's application mentions increasing the number of PAs in rural and frontier counties, as well as potentially joining the PA Compact. This recognition of PAs as essential to solving our rural healthcare crisis aligns with both evidence-based workforce planning and the realities of healthcare delivery in underserved communities.

PAs are a cornerstone of the rural health workforce, often serving as the only primary care providers in communities with limited access to physicians. Advancing state policies that enhance access to care by modernizing PA practice - particularly through laws creating an optimal PA practice environment and adopting the PA Licensure Compact - directly aligns with RHT workforce goals and the federal scoring methodology tied to ongoing funding.

*The Nevada Academy of Physician Associates is dedicated to the advancement of its members and the PA profession through academy support, education, public awareness, and legislative action.*

## **Policy Actions That Can Increase Future Funding**

CMS has made clear that state policy environments are a key factor in determining workload-based funding allocations. Progress on the following two policy priorities can result in higher technical scores and increased funding during future budget periods:

### *1. Scope of Practice Modernization*

State scope of practice environments for PAs are rated on a scale from Reduced to Optimal, with higher ratings receiving more technical points (0–100) under the RHT "Workload Funding" methodology. Nevada is currently rated as a Reduced state. Advancing PA practice modernization will therefore position Nevada to earn higher scores and greater funding in future budget periods. Practice modernization does not necessarily mean independent practice. Rather, it means updating outdated regulations to reflect the current education, training, and competencies of today's PAs while maintaining appropriate collaborative relationships with physicians.

### *2. PA Licensure Compact Participation*

The PA Licensure Compact is an interstate occupational licensure compact that facilitates multistate practice, improves healthcare access for patients, and enhances public protection. Joining the PA Licensure Compact would improve PA mobility into rural areas, allowing Nevada to more easily recruit providers where they are needed most. Under the RHT scoring methodology, joining the PA Compact results in additional technical points: 0 points for no active legislation to become a PA Compact member, 50 points for legislation filed, and 100 points for states that are compact members. This represents a significant opportunity to increase Nevada's federal funding while simultaneously addressing our rural workforce shortage.

## **NAPA's Commitment to Collaboration**

NAPA is committed to working collaboratively with the NSBME and other relevant healthcare stakeholders to advance policies that benefit Nevada patients and communities. We recognize that meaningful healthcare reform requires input from all parties and a shared commitment to evidence-based policy. As we prepare for the upcoming legislative session, NAPA is eager to engage in substantive dialogue about:

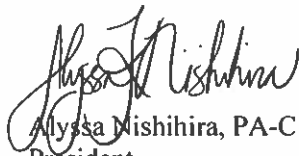
- How PA practice modernization can be implemented in a manner that maintains patient safety while improving access to care
- Strategies for joining the PA Licensure Compact to maximize federal funding and workforce mobility

NAPA respectfully requests the opportunity to meet with the Board to discuss these initiatives in greater detail. We believe that open communication and collaborative problem-solving will result in policies that serve the best interests of Nevada patients while positioning our state to receive maximum federal support for rural healthcare transformation.

We are prepared to provide additional data, research, and evidence regarding PA practice modernization and compact participation. We also welcome the Board's input and expertise as we work together to address Nevada's healthcare workforce challenges.

The Nevada Academy of Physician Associates looks forward to working collaboratively with the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners as we prepare for the next legislative session and remain committed to open dialogue and evidence-based policymaking.

*Respectfully submitted,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alyssa Nishihira". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

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