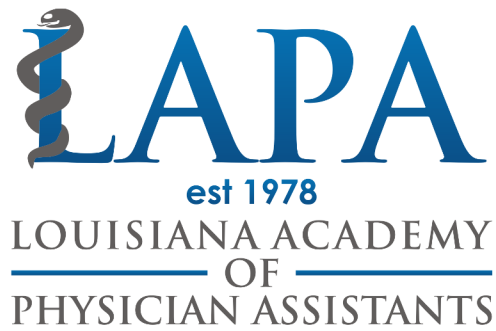


THE NEWS LETTER



LAPA LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY 2019

ACT 276

LAPA's Legislative Committee worked extremely hard this past legislative session to improve practice for PAs in Louisiana. LAPA's main bill - Senate Bill 166 sponsored by Senator Eric LaFleur (Ville Platte) was signed into law on June 11, 2019. The contents of the bill were amended throughout the session, and ultimately the Act provides clarification to legislation passed in the 2018 session relative to prescriptive authority and expands the list of providers able to order occupational therapy to include PAs.

ACT 338

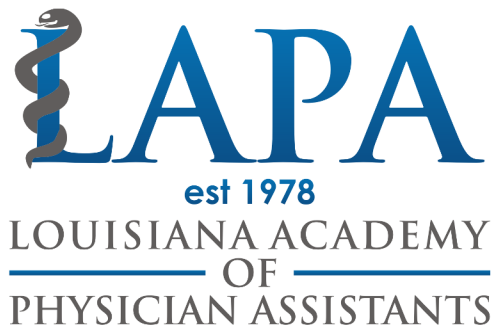
At the request of Tony Acosta, PA-C and LAPA member, Senator Long sponsored legislation that expands a previously established tax credit for primary care providers working in medically underserved areas to PAs. LAPA thanks Tony for his efforts in working with Senator Long to extend this benefit to hard working PAs in Louisiana.

ACT 414

This legislation, sponsored by Senator Boudreaux (Lafayette) provides clear legal language making PAs eligible to prescribe Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders, in compliance with federal law and state rules.

LAPA would like to thank the American Academy of Physician Assistants for providing us with a generous grant of \$9,000.00 to assist with legislative efforts in the 2019 session!

THE NEWS LETTER



What's Next?

The Legislative Committee plans to meet in the next few months and develop a short- and long-term strategic plan for legislative efforts over the next several years, using AAPAs revised state model legislation - Optimal Team Practice (OTP) - as our template. Not familiar with OTP?

Click here for details:

<https://www.aapa.org/advocacy-central/optimal-team-practice/>

Calling all Louisiana PAs!!! LAPA NEEDS YOU!

LAPA has enjoyed multiple legislative successes over the past few years. Since 2015, LAPA has successfully lobbied to expand prescriptive authority, increase MD/PA ratios, and eliminate 100% co-signature requirements for documentation as just a few examples. In order to continue to expand our practice and remove outdated restrictions, we need a strong and active membership! Effecting change requires "grass roots" advocacy and involvement of our members and Legislative Committee with guidance from our government relations consultants/lobbying team.

LAPA thanks our members for their ongoing support!

Not currently a member?

Click here to join and support your fellow PAs/profession.

<https://www.ourlapa.org/join-us>

LAPA PAC Fund

If you would like to make a donation to LAPA's Political Action Committee Fund (non-tax deductible), click below.

<https://ourlapa.org/PAC-Contributions>

Optimal Team Practice
Optimal Team Practice occurs when PAs, physicians, and other medical professionals work together to provide quality care without burdensome administrative constraints.

CHANGES PAs ARE SEEKING
To support **Optimal Team Practice**, states should:

- Eliminate the requirement for PAs to have an agreement with a specific physician.
- Create a separate majority-PA board to regulate PAs, or add PAs and physicians who work with PAs to medical or healing arts boards.
- Authorize PAs to be directly reimbursed by all public and private insurers.

WHY OPTIMAL TEAM PRACTICE MATTERS

Eliminating the requirement for a PA to have an agreement with a specific physician would enable practice-level decisions about patient care teams.

- PATIENTS** will have **greater access to high-quality healthcare.**
- EMPLOYERS** will have **more flexibility** in determining **healthcare teams.**
- LEGISLATORS** will see **increased access and lower Medicaid costs** in their states.
- PHYSICIANS** will be **relieved of unnecessary administrative and legal burdens.**

SUPPORT FOR OPTIMAL TEAM PRACTICE

- The changes PAs are seeking represent a natural evolution of the PA profession. Patients, especially in rural and underserved areas, will benefit from greater access to the high-quality care that PAs provide.
Bill Finerfrock, Executive Director, National Association of Rural Health Clinics
- Removing unnecessary restrictions on PA practice, such as eliminating the requirement for PAs to have an agreement with a specific physician in order to practice, would help alleviate healthcare shortages and improve efficiency with no adverse effects on patient outcomes.
E. Kathleen Adams, PhD and Sara McAnulty, PhD, The Brookings Institution's Hamilton Project
- States should consider eliminating requirements for rigid collaborative practice and supervision agreements between physicians [...] and their care extenders (e.g., physician assistants [...]).
Reforming America's Healthcare System Through Choice and Competition, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Treasury and Labor

OPTIMAL TEAM PRACTICE | January 2019