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October 8, 2020

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
407 Technical Review Committee

Re: APRN 407 Application

Dear Technical Review Committee,

The Nebraska Academy of Physicians Assistants (NAPA) has reviewed the credentialing review application put forth by the Board of Nursing and sends this letter in opposition to the proposal as written. Having undergone our own credentialing review process last year, NAPA recognizes and can appreciate when health professionals seek to update their scope of practice. NAPA's application last year was the product of bringing stakeholders together to accomplish our desired goal of modernizing the physician assistant statutes to provide more freedom in our work.

Physician assistants go through more education and training than our APRN colleagues and despite this, we maintained the collaboration between the health care team that is so beneficial to the effective treatment of our patients. It is concerning that this application seeks to sever that established approach, especially with Certified Nurse Midwives who could potentially impact the health of both mother and child. When looking at pregnancy and the subsequent birthing process, complications can arise in a split second which requires expertise and a skill set that CNMs are not able to provide on their own.

Our members work closely with APRNs on a daily basis, and we understand the different perspectives each professional can provide when caring for patients. We each bring our own education and training to the approaches we take to address the medical needs that might arise in any given situation. What makes this the most effective way to care for our patients is when each provider can consult with one another as a team. That is why it was disheartening to see this proposal not take into consideration keeping that important collaboration between professionals in place.

While we do support efforts to modernize what health professionals can do in their role as their education and training evolves, we do not believe that this proposal falls into that category. With less education and training than our members, NAPA believes that what the Board of Nursing has put forth goes beyond the level of care APRNs are able to provide on their own. More consideration should be given to how the APRNs can achieve modernization while maintaining the health care team that is so important for effective care.

Best regards,

Handwritten signature of Kurt L. Schmeckpeper in black ink, followed by the text "MPAS, PA-C".

MPAS, PA-C

Kurt L. Schmeckpeper, MPAS, PA-C
Chair - Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee