



Ohio Association of Physician Assistants
Senate Bill 303

Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee
May 6, 2020

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on Senate Bill 303. OAPA represents the physician assistant (“PA”) profession in Ohio. Serving over 3,000 licensed PAs and almost 1,000 PA students, OAPA seeks to promote quality, cost-effective, accessible health care, and to promote the professional and personal development of PAs with the organization.

First, we would like to thank the sponsors, Senator Huffman and Senator Manning, for their work on this bill during this unprecedented time. We also want to thank them for including PAs in this bill. PAs are on the front lines with our other healthcare professionals right now. PAs serve in a variety of healthcare settings such as emergency rooms, primary care offices, operating rooms, etc. During the COVID-19 pandemic, PAs are an integral part of our healthcare system due to their scope of practice and their ability to prescribe prescriptions for their patients.

Senate Bill 303 allows pharmacists to enter into consult agreements with PAs for the management of a patients’ drug therapies. It also broadens the scope of tests, including laboratory and diagnostics test, that a pharmacist may order in conjunction with the patient’s drug therapy. Senate Bill 303 creates needed flexibility within the healthcare system to provide timely services to patients. As stated above, OAPA promotes healthcare accessibility and a consult agreement is a tool that serves that goal. The ability to enter to consult agreements began during this pandemic and demonstrated that these consult agreements help both healthcare professionals and their patients. The board of pharmacy permitted these consult agreements through a temporary waiver of their rules. Now that we’ve seen the benefits, Senate Bill 303 takes the necessary next step that allows these consult agreements on permanent basis.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on Senate Bill 303. We urge committee members to support the bill for passage.