



**Ohio House Health Committee
House Bill 353 – Opposition Testimony
Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

Chairman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on behalf of the *Ohio Health Policy Alliance*.

My name is Elaine L. Miller, PHD, RN, CRRN, FAAN, FAHA. I am a well-published health care researcher and clinician with over 35 years experience. I wish to lend my voice to other Ohio health care professionals and the citizens of our state who are concerned about the quality of health care in Ohio and the role of PAs.

House Bill 353 proponents will tell you its purpose is to more accurately represent the PA's job description, will reduce patient confusion, better reflects PA's scope of practice, and makes becoming a PA more attractive as a vocation. What they don't tell you is that physician assistants are almost always called PAs in daily practice, that changing the name of Physician Assistant to Physician Associate only serves to confuse patients, and that "elevating" the title of PA will not change the growing enrollment trends in PA academic programs. In short, HB 353 is merely a solution looking for a problem that does not exist. In fact, it creates new problems.

Few States Adopting Physician Assistant Name Change

To date, only three states have enacted PA name changes with 22 other states defeating such legislation. In spite of these legislative defeats, the *American Academy of PAs* (AAPA) continues to introduce "model" legislation across the U.S. each year aimed at changing the Physician Assistant title. It is disappointing that the *Ohio Association of Physician Assistants* joins in supporting this effort.

Deepens Patient Confusion & Weakens Physician Supervision

Many patients are already confused regarding what PAs do and a name change does not mitigate this problem. Adding to this, PAs do not always identify themselves as PAs in clinical practice and frequently do not clarify their roles which leads to patient confusion. Changing the name of Physician Assistant to Physician Associate simply adds the patient confusion about who is providing their care. Further, there are concerns among physicians that the "Assistant" to "Associate" name change is simply an attempt to broaden PA's pursuit towards independent practice and professional parity. Once Physician Assistants change their name to Physician

Associates, I worry the next step is to ask for independent practicing privileges, not under the supervision of physicians.

Recommendation

We strongly urge your committee to reject any legislation that aims to change the title and/or role of Physician Assistants. There is no justification for this change and it only leads to further confusion among patients and their families. This change also has the potential to increase health care costs since newly “minted” *Physician Associates* will next demand higher compensation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.