



January 11, 2016

Dear NCCPA Board of Directors,

On behalf of the AAPA Board of Directors and the AAPA House of Delegates, we respectfully request that you postpone final consideration of NCCPA's recently proposed changes to the PANRE testing regime until late June 2016, in order to give the PA profession's representative body – the AAPA House of Delegates – the opportunity to debate and determine its position on the matter. As you may be aware, the AAPA House of Delegates consists of 274 elected representatives of 91 PA organizations, including PA specialty organizations, AAPA state and federal service chapters, PA caucuses, and the Student Academy. The House of Delegates meeting is held each year in conjunction with the AAPA Annual Conference, which affords the 7,000 conference attendees the opportunity to observe and participate in the HOD meeting and deliberations.

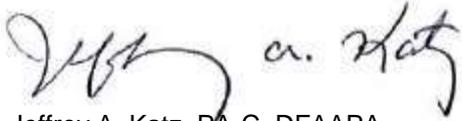
The AAPA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws delegate authority to AAPA's House of Delegates to “exercise the sole authority on behalf of the Academy to enact policies establishing the collective values, philosophies, and principles of the physician assistant profession.” The Academy's position on the matter of PA licensure, certification, and re-certification requirements is fundamental to the future of the profession, and it requires and deserves the considered deliberation of the elected leadership of the PA profession.

We acknowledge that NCCPA is primarily focused on serving the interests of the public. However, the fact that you have actively sought the opinion of PAs on this matter demonstrates that you recognize the importance of understanding the impact of the proposed changes on PA practice and know that only PAs can provide that perspective.

Since the most recent changes to the NCCPA requirements went into effect just two years ago (2014), this short delay in NCCPA's consideration of further changes should not have any appreciable impact on the effectiveness of PA certification and recertification processes. It will, however, give PAs across the country the opportunity to come together through their representative professional organizations to discuss the issues and prepare their elected delegates to deliberate and decide on their behalf. We trust that PAs will have greater confidence that their views have been heard and appropriately represented through this deliberative representative process, than if NCCPA relies solely on its own effort to weigh the opinions of PAs who write individual letters to NCCPA.

Thus, we make this official request that you extend the comment period and the decision of the NCCPA Board until late June 2016. We appreciate your assistance in effecting this change to the NCCPA decision-making timeline, and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey A. Katz in black ink.

Jeffrey A. Katz, PA-C, DFAAPA
President and Chair, Board of Directors

Handwritten signature of L. Gail Curtis in black ink.

L. Gail Curtis, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA
Speaker of the House of Delegates and Vice
President, Board of Directors

Cc: AAPA Board of Directors
AAPA House of Delegates