

## **Introduction and Summary**

### **Proposed Changes to Article 5 of the Wyoming Medical Practice Act**

The Wyoming Association of PAs (WAPA) is seeking change in supervisory requirements for licensure. The intent of this proposal is multifold:

- The proposed changes intend to maintain our collaborative relationships with our physician colleagues while continuing to serve patients in Wyoming with high quality care
- The proposed changes intend to remove licensing requirements which currently require practicing with a supervising physician or group of physicians
- The proposed changes intend to continue providing vital access for healthcare in Wyoming in both the primary care and specialty settings, but have no intention to change the PA scope of practice
- The proposed changes intend to improve ease of hiring PAs in Wyoming

WAPA began an intentional process 2 years ago to create draft legislative changes to mirror a blueprint presented by our national organization, the American Academy of PAs (AAPA). AAPA conducted an investigation 4-5 years ago to determine the future practice of PAs in the United States to address hireability, maintenance of high standards for PA practice, and to further bolster the collaboration between PAs and physicians. During the last 2 years WAPA has conducted online surveys for PAs in the state, in-person informational meetings with PAs, and in-person meetings with the Wyoming Medical Society.

The culmination of this work proposes to uncouple the licensing requirements between physicians and PAs to ensure that PAs continue to be responsible for the care they provide and have a viable role in the future of providing high quality, accessible patient care. In many healthcare systems across the country, including Wyoming, existing supervisory requirements have become an impediment to PA practice. The PA practice has historically embodied intentional collaboration between PAs and physicians. This proposed legislation will maintain and strengthen this partnership. PAs are well trained medical professionals that have provided care for patients in rural and urban settings, primary care and specialty care practices since the mid-1960s. The 200+ licensed PAs in Wyoming are valuable members of the healthcare system, providing high quality patient care and access for care in a state that, at times, struggles with recruiting healthcare providers.