

Message from the WAPA President

December 13, 2019

PA Bill SB 5411 | REVISED

Colleagues,

Whenever a law is reconsidered, it opens the door for comments and potential opposition. We've had our share of suggested changes from chiropractors, podiatrists, and nurse anesthetists thus far. Be assured your lobbyist and legislative committee is working hard to answer those inquiries and work with opposing parties.

As we enter the next legislative session, we must consider the "S" (supervision) word. It's been part of the law for 50 years. As you know, nothing has changed except the milieu in which we practice. Now, we are faced with physicians and corporations who seem surprised that supervision is required (because in reality, we collaborate) and interpret supervision as a liability in comparison with other practitioners. It is imperative we address this issue clearly.

SB 5411: Removes physician liability for PA practice.

SB 5411: The supervising physician (SP) is not required to be present, cosign charts or "look over the PAs shoulder." They have never had to do that, and this bill does not change that. We continue to practice as we always have.

SB 5411: Physicians can supervise more than 5 PAs. Alternates can include several physicians in the group and, in a group practice, need not be named in the delegation agreement (DA).

SB 5411: The delegation agreement remains at the practice sight. This gives flexibility to your practice, distributes SPs roles and reflects how we practice in a large group. If the SP moves or decides to decline supervision you can easily name an alternate. Your legislators, employers, and some physicians will not understand this nuanced definition. Collaboration vs supervision implies we cannot practice "independently" within a practice. Yet we do. The scope of practice remains essentially the same.

We have 60 days to move our bill through the challenging legislative process and pass it into law. This is a critical time for all PAs practicing in Washington.

A template letter of support to send to your representative is available. Fill in the blanks (yellow highlights) with your personal information. Please also make plans to join us on PA Lobby Day on Feb 5th or talk to your legislator in person. Please let us know if you need further information about SB 5411. We are here for you.

Template letter/sample: [2020 WAPA template letter to Senators.docx](#)

We look forward to seeing you in Olympia!

Best regards,
Eileen Ravella PA-C