



SENATE BILL 2758/HOUSE BILL 4692

Sponsors: Senator Laura Murphy
Assistant House Democratic Leader Kathleen Willis,
Reps. Mary Flowers and Randy Frese

Physician assistants (PAs) face daily struggles due to outdated practice laws and unnecessary bureaucracy. Illinois is losing jobs to neighboring states!

- Southern Illinois University indicates that for the first time ever, some PAs from the last two years of graduates have had difficulty finding jobs while nurse practitioners nearly tripled in Illinois.
- Federal HHS data shows that Illinois' distribution of PAs to population is relatively low – in the range of 17-37 PAs per 100,000 *working-age* residents. This is lower than several of the surrounding states, including WI, MI, IA, and MN.
- Studies by federal HHS and Brookings Institution have found that practice barriers for physician assistants restrict health care access and removing them will improve patient care.

PAtients First!!! *eliminates patient care barriers for PAs and their collaborating physicians:*

1. Eliminates required department notifications and specific “written” agreements. However PAs will still need to collaborate with physicians in order to practice. This is NOT independent practice!
2. Scope of practice determined at the practice level by the PA’s individual education, training and experience.
3. Allow PAs to have a seat at the table in front of state regulators and self-govern the profession.

What other states have done:

- **Michigan, Iowa, Arizona, California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Utah & Texas:** All states with their own PA Medical Boards that regulate the PA profession.
- **North Dakota:** Removed legal tie to physician (including practice agreement) for all PAs except PAs with fewer than 4,000 practice hours who own their own practice. They already had a PA on the medical board.
- **West Virginia:** Removed the requirement for a specific collaborating physician in hospital settings (affects 50% of PAs in the state). They already had two PAs on the medical board.