

Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants N83 W13410 Leon Road Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 Phone: (651) 237-7241 info@MinnesotaPA.org www.MinnesotaPA.org

March 18, 2022

Senator Paul Utke, Chair Committee on Health and Human Services Finance and Policy 3109 Minnesota Senate Building St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chairman Utke,

On behalf of the Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA), which represents the more than 3,300 PAs licensed in Minnesota, we would like to express our support for S.F. 3071 (Rosen).

This legislation seeks to expedite Minnesota licensure for needed health care professionals whose skills are desperately needed in provider shortage areas. As a result of Covid, baby boomer retirements and provider exhaustion, many hospitals and clinics face demand for care that exceeds capacity.

I understand an amendment will be offered which will add physician assistants to the bill. PAs are medical professionals who diagnose and treat illnesses, prescribe medications, perform medical procedures and examinations, assist in surgery, and often serve as a patient's main health care provider. Adding PAs to the bill will help speed PAs coming to Minnesota being able to serve patients and provide needed care.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Sincerely,

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MAJ(R) Jenifer K. Detert, PA-C, President, Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA) <u>mapa.advocate@gmail.com</u>