



Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

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Regarding SB 982

Representative Lemar, Senator Cassano, Senator Somers, Representative Carney, and members of the Transportation Committee.

Please accept this testimony in favor of including PAs (physician assistants) in SB 982. Section 22 addresses state statute 14-73(b) which list physicians and APRNs as being permitted to perform fitness examinations for driving instructors. Unfortunately PAs are not listed here, creating the illusion that PAs may not perform these exams.

PAs across the state perform these same type of exams. Driving instructor exams are the exact same exam that is performed for CDL (commercial driver license) approval. In fact, the very form that is signed for driving instructor or CDL exams includes a check box for PAs to complete the exam.

Since this section is being updated for other reasons, it should also be updated to include PAs. The absence of PAs creates confusion because someone who reads this law will think that the exclusion of PAs means that we cannot provide this care. When misinterpretation occurs, it delays and reduces care, and limits the options drivers have of being examined.

As a group, PAs have discussed the inclusion of PAs providing health care for drivers with the CT Medical Society and the CT Hospital Association, who both agree that it is of benefit to include PAs in care provided to drivers. We then request that PAs be included when physicians and APRNs are listed as providing care, to avoid the confusion and limitations on care that may be appropriately provided.

As you are likely aware, PAs work across all specialties and practice settings. PAs assess, diagnose and treat disease, and provide preventative and primary care. PAs are passionate about the well-being of their patients and especially during this pandemic, it is clear how crucial it is that we offer our patients the best access to high quality care.

Thank you for your consideration, and please contact us if further information would be of help.

Mark Turczak PA, President
Jason Prevelige PA, Legislative Chair