



February 6, 2024

Oppose PA Name Change – HB 4010

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Goodwin and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

On behalf of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon (OPSO) and the over 2,500 osteopathic physicians and medical student in Oregon, we are urging the committee to remove the provisions in House Bill 4010 that would change the healthcare title of Physician Assistant to Physician Associate.

We feel that this portion of the bill needs more vetting, and we are concerned that the Oregon Society of Physician Assistants has not yet engaged in meaningful conversations to discuss this significant change in their health care professional title. According to the AAPA press release, the decision for a name change came as a result of, “several years of study by an international marketing and communications firm.” Professional credentials, titles and how we convey such information to patients is of great importance and not a matter of marketing. We are extremely concerned about the potential for confusion and how the new title would be used to convey the professional training of health care groups.

Given that these conversations have not taken place and that it would be impossible to have a meaningful examination of the potential impacts of the name change within the timeframe of a short session, we urge the committee to strike the PA name change provisions and convene a work group that could address the concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Walls
Executive Director
Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon