

Preserve the Physician-Led, Team-Based Care Model

Background

House Bill 353, which would change the title of “physician assistant” to “physician associate.” Patients in Ohio deserve access to high-quality, physician-led care. Patients deserve to know who is providing their care. They are often confused about the differences between various types of health care practitioners.

Physicians Are Trained to Lead

	Physicians	Nurse Practitioners (NPs)	Physician Assistants (PAs)
Education	4 years of medical school	2–3 years graduate program	2–2.5 years
Training	12,000–16,000 clinical hours	500–720 clinical hours	2,000 clinical hours
Residency	3–7 years (required)	Not Required	Not Required

Issue

- Changing the title from *Physician Assistant* to *Physician Associate* blurs established roles.
- Using unfamiliar or ambiguous terminology reduces clarity in healthcare settings.
- Equating non-physician titles more closely with “physician” devalues distinctions in education and training.

Effect

- Patients may incorrectly assume they are being treated by a physician or someone with equivalent training.
- Patients become confused about who is responsible for diagnosis and treatment decisions.
- Could compromise patient safety when complex medical decisions are made without physician-level training.

- **Support** the physician-led, team-based model of care.
- **Oppose** House Bill 353
- **Protect** Ohio patients by ensuring care decisions are guided by the most trained member of the care team: physicians.