

National Commission on Certification of Physician's Assistants, Inc.

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Executive Committee

Robert B. Bruner, FACHA—President
Edmund C. Casey, M.D.—Vice President
Capt. David H. Gwinn, PA-C—Secretary
George Iannacone, Ed.D.—Treasurer
Raymond H. Murray, M.D.—Past President

June 7, 1983

Executive Director
David L. Glazer

Jean Steel, M.N., R.N.
Chairperson, Cabinet on Nursing Practice
American Nurses' Association, Inc.
2420 Pershing Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

Dear Ms. Steel:

We, the members of the NCCPA Executive Committee have been informed by our Executive Director, David L. Glazer, of the decision by the Cabinet on Nursing Practice of the American Nurses' Association to withdraw from the NCCPA Board of Directors. We hope the Cabinet will reconsider its decision.

NCCPA's organization and role differ significantly from that of ANA. While ANA indeed establishes standards of practice and certification for the nursing profession, NCCPA operates solely as a free-standing certifying body, independent of the physician assistant profession. The American Academy of Physician Assistants supplies five Directors to our Board; thirteen of the remaining sixteen Directors (the others represent the public) represent other agencies with relationships to physician assistants similar to that of ANA. Peer review and standards of practice are, we agree, legitimately within the purview of the profession; NCCPA's charge is, however, to assure that entering and advanced level physician assistants meet those standards under its independent authority to examine and certify.

Because physician assistants and nurses often work cooperatively together, we feel it is entirely appropriate, indeed essential, that ANA continue to have a voice in the physician assistant certifying process. Our committee and Board meetings provide useful forums for exchanges of perspectives and ideas, not only between physician assistants and nurses, but between ANA and representatives of organized medicine. For these reasons, the NCCPA Board of Directors shares our concern about the withdrawal of ANA.

To date, NCCPA has certified over 800 nurse practitioner program graduates and an unspecified number of R.N.'s who have met our on-the-job physician assistant training criteria. Three nurse practitioner programs continue to be accredited by AMA as physician assistant programs and we fully expect graduates of these programs to continue to certify through NCCPA. Since NCCPA requires career-long periodic reregistration and recertification of the certificate, there is a significantly large contingent of R.N.'s that remain a part of our process.

Charter Organizations

American Academy of Physician Assistants • American Medical Association • American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics • American College of Physicians • American College of Surgeons • American Hospital Association
American Nurses' Association • American Society of Internal Medicine • Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Physician Assistant Programs • U.S. Department of Defense • Federation of State Medical Boards of the U.S.
National Board of Medical Examiners

At the request of ANA, and with our concurrence, NCCPA has never marketed our examination to nurse practitioner programs. Nonetheless, it remains true that many nurse practitioners find it either mandatory or at least beneficial to practice in several states as physician assistants. Because of our unique relationship with state agencies entrusted with physician assistant enabling authority, continued ANA participation assures that those nurse practitioners will continue to have a voice in the NCCPA deliberative process.

Finally, on a much more personal note, we feel we have been most fortunate to have the benefit of Janet Burge's, and before her, Barbara Curtis' wisdom and counsel. Both have been active and valuable participants in both our Board of Directors and selected committee processes. We feel it would be a disadvantage to both us and ANA to lose such thoughtful and valued service.

We hope the Cabinet will act favorably on our request to reconsider ANA's representation on the NCCPA Board of Directors. As you know, NCCPA reimburses all Directors' and committee members' expenses so there is no cost to ANA for continued participation. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of us or our Executive Director.

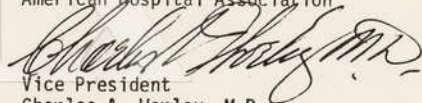
Yours truly,



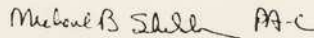
President
Edmund C. Casey, M.D.
American Medical Association



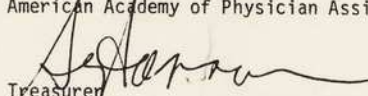
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NCCPA EC/11c

cc: Irma Lou Hirsch, M.N., R.N. - ANA Senior Staff Specialist