



2025-26 ASDSA Officers

Kavita Mariwalla, MD, **President**

Deirdre Hooper, MD, **President-Elect**

Eric F. Bernstein, MD, MSE, **Vice President**

Nazanin Saedi, MD, **Secretary**

Anna Bar, MD, **Treasurer**

M. Laurin Council, MD, MBA, **Immediate Past President**

Tara L. Azzano, **Executive Director**

Kristin Hellquist, MS, CAE, **Senior Chief Advocacy Officer**

May 18, 2026

Committee on Finance

Alaska Senate

RE: Oppose AK HB 195

Dear Members of the Committee on Finance:

On behalf of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA), representing 6,400+ dermatologic surgeons, we are writing to share our concerns regarding House Bill 195, which would adopt the term “Physician Associate” for “Physician Assistant” in statute. We strongly support the physician-led team-based model of care and recognize the vital role all medical personnel play in the health care delivery system; however, ambiguous nomenclature, misleading advertisements, and the myriad of individuals one encounters at each point of service exacerbates patient uncertainty. Changing one’s title to “Physician Associate” without completing an accredited medical school education and training will further mislead the public.

Patients can become frustrated when navigating the health care system, and the lack of information and transparency associated with the training and education of physicians, technicians, nurses, physician assistants and others only makes providing care to those who need it most more difficult. Without the necessary information regarding the wide array of professionals who work in health care settings, patients become understandably confused. Ambiguous advertisements and marketing further exacerbate the problem. With the ever-expanding health care system, the problem is likely to worsen.

A recent survey conducted by the American Medical Association confirms increasing patient confusion about the education and training of physicians and non-physicians, and who is delivering their care. The survey reinforces that patients want more transparency regarding the credentials and qualifications of physicians and non-physicians:

- 88% of patients believe only medical doctors should be permitted to use the title “physician;”
- 79% of patients support state legislation to require all health care advertising materials to clearly designate the level of education, skills and training of all health care professionals promoting their services.

We will continue to advocate for truth-in-advertising laws and oppose legislation that jeopardizes patient safety by eliminating the physician-team based model of care. Thank you for your strong consideration on this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kristin Hellquist, ASDSA Senior Chief Advocacy Officer, at khellquist@asds.net.

Sincerely,

American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association

American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA)

1933 N. Meacham Rd, Suite 650, Schaumburg, IL 60173

asds.net | 847-956-0900