

Konrad Jackson

From: Nate Buffington <nbuffing@gmail.com>
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To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: SB 89

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Dear Legislators,

I will keep this as brief and to the point as I can. I have worked for approximately 18 years as a board certified family physician. Residency training is approximately 10,000+ hours over three years. Even at that point, there's still a bit of a learning curve when entering practice for the first time. Of course, the learning never stops in medicine which is part of the reason why it can be a rewarding career.

I've worked with many mid-level providers over the years with varying levels of experience and competence. I very much believe that at a point, most could go on to practice independently and do quite well. I would recommend 10,000 hours of practice to be the benchmark for this, similar to Utah. Practicing under the license of a board certified physician would essentially be their 'residency training'. 4,000 hours doesn't seem adequate to me and is inconsistent with what other states have done when considering this question.

In short, I fully support independent practice for physician assistants and I think we all should be held to similar standards. You only need to revise SB 89 to require 10,000 hours rather than 4,000 hours (similar to Utah and similar to a medical residency), and I will fully support this bill.

Thanks for your consideration,

-Nate Buffington, MD