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Title: Retain Physician Assistant Professional Title
Introduced by: David Whalen, MD, MPA, for the Kent County Delegation
Original Author: Megan Edison, MD
Referred To: Reference Committee B
House Action: **APPROVED**

Whereas, in May 2021, the American Academy of Physician Assistants passed a resolution during their virtual annual meeting to change their title from "Physician Assistant" to "Physician Associate," and

Whereas, "Physician Associate" is already the terminology used by non-partner physicians in medical practice, and

Whereas, this rebranding and marketing change is confusing, and will further obfuscate non-physician credentials from patients who deserve clarity and transparency, and

Whereas, the American Medical Association opposes this proposed title change, citing issues relating to patient transparency and the understanding of the type of care they are receiving, and

Whereas, the American Osteopathic Association opposes this proposed title change, stating it is an attempt "to obfuscate their credentials through title misappropriation;" therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS oppose the title change of Physician Assistant to Physician Associate.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$1,000-\$2,000 for new MSMS policy.

Relevant MSMS Policy: None

Relevant AMA Policy:

Non-Physician Title Misappropriation D-405.977

Our AMA will: (1) actively oppose the American Academy of Physician Assistants' (AAPA's) recent move to change the official title of the profession from "Physician Assistant" to "Physician Associate"; and (2) actively advocate that the stand-alone title "Physician" be used only to refer to doctors of allopathic medicine (MDs) and doctors of osteopathic medicine (DOs), and not be used in ways that have the potential to mislead patients about the level of training and credentials of non-physician health care workers.