

January 25th 2022

Attention: Standing Committee of Finance and Economic Affairs

My name is Alifiya Goriawala and I am a Canadian trained practicing Physician Assistant (PA) since 2014. As a member of this profession I can speak to the value that PAs add to the Canadian health care system and request your consideration towards funding models for PAs during the 2022 Ontario Budget Consultation.

A Physician Assistant is an advanced practice health care provider that works closely with their supervising physician to perform delegated medical tasks. PAs can perform histories, physicals, order and interpret investigations, diagnose, and formulate treatment plans. They also perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, reduce fracture, cast and splint, perform biopsies, and assist in surgery. They educate and counsel patients preventative health. PAs are advanced care providers with a flexible scope of practice that can fill gaps in delivery of healthcare.

In Canada, there are approximately 800 PAs currently working in health care settings, primarily in Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario and New Brunswick. There are roughly 120 students enrolled in PA programs in Canada and this number is expected to keep growing as the profession advances and new academic institutions start offering a Physician Assistant Education program. PAs are gradually being introduced in other provinces, and evaluation of their impact on access, wait times, quality of care and both patient and provider satisfaction is ongoing.

While reviewing your budget considerations, I humbly request you to please allocate funding towards PA initiatives such as education programs and funding models in order to facilitate sustainability of the PA workforce.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter.

Sincerely,

Alifiya Goriawala
Canadian Certified Physician Assistant
University Health Network