



**HB 377 Proponent Testimony
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Past President and Government Affairs Chair
Ohio Association of Physician Assistants (OAPA)
House Health Committee
Chair Jean Schmidt
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Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee, on behalf of the Ohio Association of Physician Assistants (OAPA), representing 6,700 licensed PAs across the state and all of the students within Ohio's 17 PA programs, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 377 to modernize and clarify Ohio law governing laser hair removal.

OAPA strongly supports legislation that empowers physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and other qualified healthcare professionals to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and certification. HB 377 does precisely that by updating outdated statutory language, reducing ambiguity, and recognizing the collaborative, team-based care models already in use across Ohio. Many PAs work in dermatology, plastics, and aesthetic medicine, yet the current statute can be interpreted inconsistently. HB 377 resolves that uncertainty and ensures providers can safely and appropriately deliver services without unnecessary barriers.

We particularly support provisions in the bill that clarify when an in-person visit with a physician is required before treatment begins. By confirming that this requirement does not apply to PAs, the legislation preserves patient access to timely care and avoids redundant visits that offer no clinical benefit. We also appreciate that HB 377 extends supervisory and delegation authority to PAs under conditions consistent with those applied to physicians. This recognizes the scope of PA practice, aligns with existing collaborative models, and strengthens workforce flexibility.

Equally important, the bill maintains strong training, safety, and follow-up requirements while removing outdated or duplicative barriers that hinder efficient care delivery. Patients deserve properly trained and supervised providers under clear statutory guidelines, and HB 377 achieves that balance. Clarifying these standards promotes patient safety and reduces liability risks and confusion for employers, supervising clinicians, and regulators.

We also want to thank Vice Chair and bill sponsor Representative Deeter for working with us on a technical amendment to correct line 278 of the bill which would update a reference to read “**(C)** of section 4731.33” instead of “**(D)**”; an essential clarification for accurate statutory interpretation.

House Bill 377 supports patient safety, economic growth in dermatology and aesthetics, and the efficient use of Ohio's healthcare workforce. On behalf of Ohio's physician assistants and the patients we are privileged to serve, thank you for your time, attention, and commitment to advancing healthcare access and reducing restrictive barriers through this legislation. We respectfully urge your support for HB 377.