



# Modernizing Kentucky's PA Practice Laws

## What Kentucky Patients Say About PAs

**93%**  
of KY patients say PAs add value to the healthcare team.

**90%**  
say PAs should be utilized to address health workforce shortages.

**94%**  
believe PAs should be allowed to provide care to the fullest extent of their education & training.

Data from 2023 Harris Poll.

Kentucky needs healthcare providers, but outdated laws and bureaucratic regulations are preventing physician assistants (PAs) from practicing at the top of their education and training and making access to care harder for Kentuckians.

## PAs in Kentucky:

- 1,850+ PAs practice in Kentucky
- 300+ PAs practice in rural communities
- A typical PA sees 60 patients per week
- 2 nationally accredited PA educational programs in Kentucky

**1.4 million**

Kentucky residents live in areas that are experiencing healthcare provider shortages.

## Outdated Practice Laws:

Kentucky's PA practice laws are an outlier.

- **One of six states** that prohibits scope of practice from being determined at the practice level.
- All seven of **Kentucky's neighboring states** allow scope of practice to be determined at the practice level.
- **One of two states** that prohibits PAs from prescribing schedule II medications.
- Physicians, not PAs, are responsible for the care that PAs deliver to patients, making it harder to hire PAs.

Burdensome Bureaucracy:

- Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure requires supervising physicians to complete a **15-page application** before a PA can practice.

## The Need for Action:

- Nearly half of Kentucky adults have delayed or skipped healthcare services in the last two years
- 107 of Kentucky's 120 counties are considered health professional shortage areas
- Kentuckians wait more than a month for a medical appointment, on average