I believe that the most significant way SEMPA can help both individual PA's practicing emergency medicine and the overall scope of our profession is to remove the barriers that prevent us from practicing at the top of our skills and knowledge. These primarily exist in state laws and rules that prevent PA's from practicing key portions of emergency medicine. For example, in some states like Ohio, PA's can not perform procedural sedations, sign mental health holds, or pronounce death. Another example is in Kentucky, where PA's can't even prescribe all scheduled medications. In some states, PA's have a smaller scope of practice and require more supervision that do NP's. This leads to PA's losing out on EM jobs that they could excel in.

I would like to see SEMPA develop a thorough list of the specific areas that constitute the full scope of EM PA practice. SEMPA should evaluate each state to determine where barriers exist and develop a matrix showing this, analogous to how AAPA rates states on their 6 elements of PA practice. Where there are barriers, SEMPA should work with state PA organizations and the AAPA to propose and support legislation and rule changes. This would include providing information on how other states have successfully allowed PA's to perform those functions, providing statements and members to speak with state legislators, etc.

My primary goal as a SEMPA director would be to spearhead this effort. I've had experience in working with state lawmakers to make these changes. I was a key advocate in addressing problems with the Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services. I also bring management experience from my years working for a Fortune 50 company and multiple fire/EMS departments.

I'm asking for your support to make this happen. Thank you.