

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on Any Willing Physician

Retained by the Board of Trustees, December 2021

Retained by the Board of Trustees, July 2016

Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 1995

Retained by the Assembly, November 2021

Retained by the Assembly, May 2016

Approved by the Assembly, May 1995

“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

Issue:

The APA believes that treatment by a non-medical licensed professional cannot substitute for medical treatment by a physician. There are numerous state statutes and proposed pieces of legislation that require payers to contract with available physicians who are willing to participate under the terms of the payer.

APA Position:

The APA supports "any willing physician" legislation which requires any public or private third-party payer, health plan, or organized system of health care (hereinafter referred to as "payer") to contract with any duly licensed physician who is willing to accept the payer's published criteria, terms and conditions for participation and payment for the medical treatment for which the payer is responsible.

However, the APA recognizes that the concept of patient freedom-of-choice and the concept of an affordable point-of-service option may be superior to "any willing physician" in their value to physicians and patients.