



# American Association of Surgical Physician Assistants

November 14, 2008

Senator Barack Obama  
President Elect of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Elect Obama,

Sincerest congratulations on your election to the Presidency of the United States of America. I am the President Elect of the American Association of Surgical Physician Assistants (AASPA) and the Program Director of our nation's first Postgraduate Residency in Surgery for Physician Assistants (PAs) at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City.

AASPA is the constituent organization for PAs who center their careers in surgery and surgical subspecialties. Change, a commodity so precious to your beliefs, is coming about through AASPA and the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), not only in how medical care is provided but in how we PAs see each other, medical vs. surgical. We have recognized that our differences are assets, complementary sides of the overall delivery of effective, safe healthcare. Those differences ultimately support the pinnacle of our efforts, patients and their welfare.

Healthcare is atop everyone's "issue" list. We at AASPA and AAPA are equally concerned. I offer you the support of our Board of Directors at AASPA and invite you to utilize our expertise in helping to formulate effective plans for all Americans to obtain quality and cost effective surgical care. We have been partners with our physician colleagues since 1969. That collaboration changed medical/surgical practice forever for the better and will continue worldwide as nations abroad expand their care delivery incorporating PAs trained in our model in their own universities and cities.

In closing, we anticipate great things for all through your administration and look forward to assisting in making the United States the world leader in healthcare. In October of 2009 (10/8-10/11/09), AASPA will hold its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual CME meeting in Chicago, a town dear to your heart. A most cordial and felicitous invitation is extended to you.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Sammartano, RPA-C  
President Elect AASPA  
Chief Delegate to the House of Delegates of AAPA  
Program Director – Postgraduate Residency in Surgery  
Senior PA Pediatric Surgery  
Children's Hospital at Montefiore