

Pennsylvania College of Technology

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PENNSTATE



Charles D. Hummer Jr., M.D., Chairman
Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-2649

Dear Dr. Hummer:

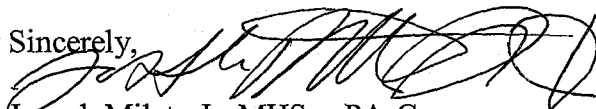
I represent the Pennsylvania College of Technology Physician Assistant Program in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. I am writing on behalf of myself and my staff, all of whom are certified Physician Assistants, in support of the proposed changes to Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18, relating to physician assistants. The proposed changes will update the regulation of our profession and allow us and the students we teach to care for patients more effectively.

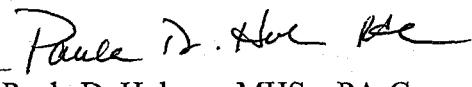
As you are aware, the proposed regulations have previously been approved by the medical board. They now are facing the next step in the process: review by the legislature, public comment, and final review by the medical board. While the proposed changes are numerous, they represent a moderate update of PA regulation in Pennsylvania. The regulations do not at all diminish supervision of physician assistants, but they allow the physicians to maximize their utilization of PAs in the clinical setting. By changing the length of time for chart review and relaying treatment information, they respond to the realities of clinical practice. Altering the prescription regulations for PAs will give better access to appropriate treatments of which PAs are knowledgeable.

The regulatory revisions represent a progressive view of the modern health system about which we teach our students. They represent an appropriate blend of public protection and recognition of regulatory language that allows physicians to optimally and safely utilize PAs. The provisions stated in the regulations are well in line with language adopted in other states.

As licensed PAs that are responsible for teaching future practicing PAs in the state of Pennsylvania in the face of increasing healthcare demands, we urge the Board to adopt these proposed changes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Joseph Mileto Jr. MHS Sc PA-C
Program Director
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Physician Assistant Program


Paula D. Holmes MHS Sc PA-C
Program Coordinator
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Physician Assistant Program