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November 11, 2005

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

Dear Dr. Hummer:

I am writing in support of the proposed changes to Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18. The proposed changes are long overdue, and appropriately reflect the changes in health care affecting the Commonwealth.

I am a licensed, practicing physician assistant currently working in the field of gastroenterology. I have worked in other medical fields, and practiced in other states. Across the board, however, my experience has been consistent: physician assistants improve the quality of and access to patient care. Our work allows patients more time with clinical providers while permitting our supervising physicians to provide care to more patients.

The proposed changes provide the needed support and framework for physician assistants and supervising physicians to do their critical work more efficiently and effectively, thus providing expanded access to primary and specialty health care without sacrificing safety or quality of care.

I hope you will support the proposed changes. Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Zylphia L. Ford, MPH, PA-C

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