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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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November 13, 2005

Charles D. Hummer, Jr., MD, Chairman
Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine
PO Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Dr. Hummer:

I am a physician assistant in Allentown, PA, working in the field of obstetrics-gynecology. I work under the supervision of Sheldon Linn, MD. I am in support of the proposed changes to PA Code Title 49, Chapter 18. These changes would update the regulation of my profession and allow me to more easily care for my patients more in a more effective manner.

In our current status as physician assistants, my supervising physician must see my patients every third visit and at least once per year. In essence, since many of my patients come in only for a yearly exam and have no other problems throughout the year, this requires my patient to be seen by my supervising physician at every visit. This is not only time consuming for my supervising physician and myself, but also the patient herself. For this reason, I see that physician assistants in OB/GYN have a short-lived profession, as this regulation is certainly hindering the availability to have a PA-C see a GYN patient in for her yearly exam.

These proposed regulations have already been approved by the medical board. I eagerly anticipate review by the legislature, public comment, and final review by the medical board. These regulations will streamline but not diminish supervision. These will allow physicians to more efficiently use their PAs. As I am sure you are aware, these provisions are similar, if not identical, to language adopted by other states' medical boards. As a licensed and practicing physician assistant in Pennsylvania, I urge the Board to adopt the proposed changes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy Lukens PA-C
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