ALTOONA OB/GYN ASSOCIATES, INC.

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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 an Obstetrician/Gynecologist supervising Julia Burke, PA-C in Altoona, Pennsylvania. I am writing to ask for your support in acceptance of the proposed changes to Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18, relating to physician assistants. It is my belief that these proposed changes will allow me and my PA to be more effective in our care of patients.

These changes are numerous, but boil down to needed changes and the modernization of PA regulation in this state. My role as a physician supervising a PA will be streamlined but not diminished. I will be able to best use the PA in my office in providing continuity of care. Changes in the length of time for chart review and relaying treatment information will allow me to respond to the realities of clinical practice. Better patient access to appropriate treatments will be accomplished with the changes in prescriptive regulations for PAs.

The Board is to be commended for their work and approval of these regulations. As you know, these regulations were reviewed and approved by physician groups in our state. Passage of these regulations will enable the citizens of Pennsylvania to participate in a progressive healthcare environment with continued physician directed care.

As a licensed physician in Pennsylvania, I urge the Board to adopt these proposed changes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Etopio MD.