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November 14, 2005

Charles D. Hummer, Jr., M.D.
Chairman, State Board of Medicine
Bureau of Occupational & Professional Affairs
2601 North Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Hummer,

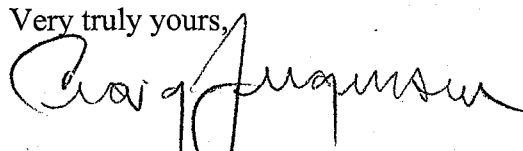
I am the supervising physician of Elizabeth Thompson, PA-C in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. I am writing in support of the proposed changes to Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18, relating to physician assistants. The proposed changes will update the regulation of the PA profession and allow us to care for patients more effectively.

As you are well 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 boil down to a moderate update of PA regulation in Pennsylvania. They will streamline but not diminish supervision and allow physicians to make the best use of their PAs. In 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 patients better access to appropriate treatments.

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

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

Very truly yours,



J. Craig Jurgensen, M.D.

JCJ/gmj