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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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 a physician who supervises two physician assistants in family practice in Plumsteadville, Pennsylvania. I am writing in support of the proposed changes Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18, relating to Physician Assistants. The proposed changes will update the regulation of physician assistants and allow me and my physician assistants to care for patients more effectively.

Increasing the amount of time required for countersignature to ten days would allow physician understaffed clinics to serve more patients effectively. Changing the requirement for the physician supervisor to see each patient every third visit or at least once a year is not practical in many practices.. Removing the barrier of prescribing medications like Sudafed and Albuterol is essential. Many asthmatic patients rely on Albuterol in emergencies and must keep these medications immediately available. Waiting for a prescription from a physician may endanger the lives of our patients. Altering the prescription regulations for PAs will give patients better access to appropriate treatments. The regulations will streamline but not diminish supervision and allow physicians to make the best use of their Physician Assistants.

I commend the Board's previous work and approval of these regulations. They represent an important update and progressive view of the health care team.

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

Sincerely,



Charles W. Burmeister, M.D.