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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

November 22, 2005

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

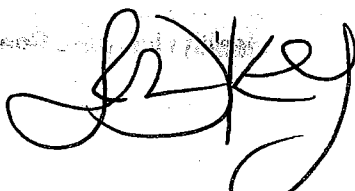
Dear Dr. Hummer:

I am a first year physician assistant student currently attending Philadelphia University's Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I am writing in support of the proposed changes to Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18, relating to physician assistants. It is paramount that you hear the voices of current PA students across the state of Pennsylvania. The proposed changes will update the regulation of my future profession and allow me 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 without compromising our ability to provide care effectively.

As a current physician assistant student, right here, right now, in Pennsylvania, I urge the Board to adopt these proposed changes. You must look a far from the current practicing PAs here, and see how these proposed changes will affect the future of this profession...how it will affect us, and this great state we live in. Over 90% of students in my class are not from the Pennsylvania area and, quite frankly, are not even considering practicing in this area because of such barriers that exist. These barriers abolish the entire premise of streamlining patient care and allowing appropriate access to proper health care for our patients. Hear our voices, for we are the future of this profession! Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
John M. O'Kelly, PA-S

 PA-S