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December 5, 2005

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

Dear Dr. Hummer:

On behalf the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society, 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 physician assistants to enable orthopaedic surgeons and their physician assistants to care for patients more effectively.

Although, the proposed changes are numerous, they represent a needed modernization of PA regulation in Pennsylvania. The changes will streamline supervision without diminishing the physician's role in providing care, and allow doctors to make the best use of PAs. In changing the length of time for chart review and relaying treatment information, the new regulations respond to the realities of clinical practice. Altering the prescription regulations for PAs will give patients better access to appropriate treatments.

I commend the Board's previous work and approval of these regulations which represent an important update and progressive view of the health care team. I anticipate that they will allow a much more thoughtfully regulated PA profession, while clearly maintaining the doctor's role in physician-directed health care.

I urge the Board to adopt these proposed changes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joshua Port, MD  
President

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