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

Dear Dr. Hummer:

I am an orthopedic surgeon who supervises Oleg Cooley, PA-C; James Burda, PA-C; and Michael Donese, PA-C; in a very busy and demanding orthopedic surgery practice in Johnstown, 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 physician assistants and allow me and my physician assistants to care for patients more effectively.

The current regulations were last updated 16 years ago in 1993. Over those past years, there have been many dramatic changes in health care, and physician assistants have been increasingly integrated into the health care team.

While the proposed changes are numerous, they essentially envision a need for modernization of the regulations in Pennsylvania, as they will streamline supervision of physician assistants without discriminating the physician's role in providing care. These new regulations will permit and allow physicians to make the best use of their physician assistants. In changing the length of time for chart review and relaying treatment information, these regulations will respond to the realities of clinical practice today. Altering the prescription regulations for physician assistant will give patients better access to appropriate treatments.

I commend the Board's previous work and approval of these regulations. As you are well aware, the regulations were reviewed and approved by physician groups in our state. They represent an important update and a progressive view of the health care team. I anticipate that they will allow a much more thoughtfully regulated physician assistant profession, while clearly maintaining the doctor's role in physician-directed health care.

As a licensed orthopedic surgeon in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I urge the Board to adopt these proposed changes. Thank you kindly for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

J. Michael Moses, M.D.

JMM/pjs

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