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THE FRACTURE & SPORTS INJURY CENTER

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November 21, 2005

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

Dear Dr. Hummer:

My name is John C. Klamam, PA-C and I am a Physician Assistant practicing under the supervision of Lawrence E. Weiss, M.D. who is an Orthopedic Surgeon in Allentown, Pennsylvania. I have reviewed the proposed changes to Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18 which is the set of regulations which are relative to Physician Assistants. I have been a Physician Assistant in Pennsylvania since 1985 and have observed the growth of our profession. I feel that the changes that will update the regulation of the profession are justified. As Physician Assistants we do deliver effective care to patients and have been hampered by the current regulations and feel that these regulations can be changed to allow us to care for patients in a much more practical manner.

Having the revised regulations approved by the Board of Medicine, we look forward to the final review by the Medical Board and the approval allowing Physician Assistants to practice in a more manageable environment which includes allowing the supervising physician to govern the use of the Physician Assistant that he or she supervises. Additionally, the patient should have the opportunity to receive care by Physicians Assistant in a manner which allows the Physician and P.A. team to diagnose, treat and prescribe effectively. Currently the limitations on Physician Assistants in terms of prescriptive privileges, as well as the ability to administer blood and controlled medications are too stringent. Physician Assistants are working in settings such as trauma and other life saving capacities and need to be able to effectively work as part of the Physician-Physician Assistant health care team.

In review, I see the changes proposed as a positive step forward in our ever changing health care system. The safety of the patients is paramount and the care of the patients by Physician Assistants has historically been extremely effective and extremely safe. I feel that the Physician-Physician Assistant team can safely determine levels of responsibility and I feel that the regulations will be a step forward for all concerned.

As a licensed and practicing Physician Assistant in Pennsylvania, I urge the Board to adopt the proposed changes to Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 18.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John C. Klamam, PA-C