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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
PHARM COMMISSION

Joseph C. Gallagher, Jr., D.O.  
Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine  
P.O. Box 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Dr. Gallagher,

I am writing in support of physician assistant prescription privileges under the supervision of an osteopathic physician. I have been a physician assistant in the Commonwealth for many years. Currently, I am a fourth year osteopathic medical student at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In my years as a physician assistant, I could never prescribe medications to my patients while under the supervision of an osteopathic physician. This created difficulties for my patients to receive the proper care that I felt medically necessary. The patients were forced to wait until the physician could write the prescription or call the medication into the pharmacy. Even worse, wait until there was an open time in the physician's schedule. This created an extensive work load on the physician and the office staff. This placed a higher cost on the practice. In turn, it placed further economic strain on the system which is stressed already.

In this current healthcare climate, access to care is hindered by so many obstacles. Allowing providers to act in the full extent of their training will eliminate some barriers and allow patient to receive care more expeditiously.

In a few months, I will proudly carry the title of osteopathic physician. After, I will soon become a fully licensed physician in this state. Having been a physician assistant for many years, I know the capable, cost-effective, patient center care that physician assistants provide. It would be injustice to my patients and the healthcare system if I did not maximize my resources and employ a physician assistant to partner with me in providing access to care. Only, under the current structure this partner in care would be limited thus limiting patients to healthcare.

In closing, I ask for the board to approve prescriptive privileges for physician assistants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the supervision of all physicians, osteopathic and allopathic. Together, osteopathic physicians and physician assistants can help the citizens of this great state achieve health and wellness.

Respectfully,



Brian K. Yorkgitis, PA-C, OMS-IV

