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Robert B. Mooney, Jr., D.O.
Family Medicine

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Robert B. Mooney, Jr., D.O.
Scott E. Butler, PA-C

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY

611 University Drive
State College, PA 16801
Phone: (814) 234-4811
Fax: (814) 231-4896

March 9, 2009

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

Re: Delegated prescriptive authority for physician assistants

Dear Dr. Gallagher,

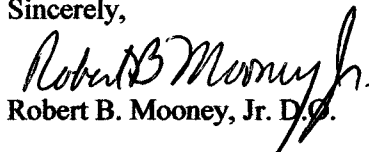
I am writing with regard to what I understand to be an initiative that would grant prescribing privileges to physician assistants currently working in Pennsylvania under the supervision of osteopathic physicians. It is my belief that this measure is long overdue. There is ample precedent that properly trained and supervised mid-level practitioners are capable of managing prescribing privileges in a competent manner. Physician assistants working under the supervision of allopathic physicians have held prescribing privileges for a number of years. Certified nurse practitioners have similarly practiced with prescriptive authority.

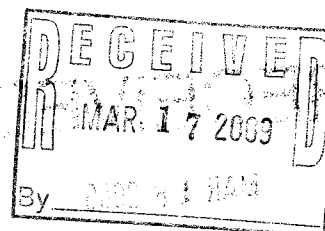
I am unaware of any research that would support a contention that physician assistants exercising prescriptive authority places the public at risk. Given the widespread practice of mid level practitioners being given this authority, one would reasonably conclude that such data would have surfaced in the event that the granting of such privileges to physician assistants was actually an imprudent measure.

These things being the case, I find it difficult to justify the prescribing restrictions being applied to physician assistants as they currently exist. I would therefore encourage the state osteopathic board to vigorously pursue this initiative.

I appreciate your continued attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Robert B. Mooney, Jr. D.O.



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