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March 10, 2009

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

Dear Dr. Gallagher:

I am writing this in support of the proposed regulations for delegated prescriptive authority for physician assistants under the supervision of osteopathic physicians. I am in full support of the proposed regulations in the language as written to avoid confusion with the allopathic regulations.

Physician assistants have been safely prescribing under the supervision of MDs for years. The individual physician will ultimately decide what medications his or her PA will be permitted to prescribe within their scope of practice. Osteopathic physicians should be given the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their allopathic colleagues.

The proposed prescribing regulations will allow the osteopathic physician – physician assistant team to care for patients more effectively. Foremost, patient access to care can only be improved when PAs who are supervised by DOs will be able to practice within the full extent of their training. This will result in better access to care by decreasing waiting time for patients as well as increasing the overall availability of appointments.

When considering employment, a PA will often accept a similar position under an allopathic physician instead of an osteopathic physician because of the lack of prescribing regulations in place. These regulations will eliminate this issue.

As a licensed physician assistant in Pennsylvania, I urge the Board to support these proposed regulations as written. Thank you for your time and consideration in this most important matter.

Sincerely,

Tracy Wright, MPAS, PA-C

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