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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Charles P. Fasano, D.O.
Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Dr. Fasano,

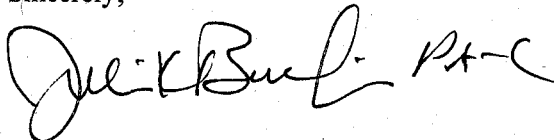
I am writing to you in support of the proposed regulation changes for delegated prescriptive authority for physician assistants under the supervision of osteopathic physicians. As you know, the proposed changes would make the regulations for supervision of physician assistants comparable for both osteopathic and allopathic physicians. I do believe the regulations should be worded exactly the same for both groups to minimize confusion.

Allopathic physicians and physician assistants have been successfully working together for approximately forty years. I am a 1996 graduate of Duke University's Physician Assistant program, where the PA profession was created in the 1960s. Physician assistants have since become a well-recognized part of the health care team, working interdependently with physicians across the country. Physician assistants have the authority to prescribe medication, under their supervising physician's guidance, in almost all states and have been safely prescribing medication for many years. In a time when Pennsylvania struggles to meet the primary care needs of patients throughout the state, I believe that these proposed changes will allow osteopathic physicians to fully utilize PA's as extenders in the health care system.

I have recently moved to Pennsylvania from North Carolina and I am not yet working. I have started my job search and already I have observed hesitance from doctors of osteopathic medicine to hire a PA, possibly due to their reluctance to serve as a PA's supervising physician. There are many well-trained, highly experienced physician assistants in Pennsylvania. In fact, Pennsylvania has the country's second highest number of physician assistant training programs, second only to New York. There are also multiple osteopathic medical schools in or in close proximity to Pennsylvania. If physician assistants are delegated prescriptive authority under the supervision of osteopathic physicians, it will reduce barriers that patients face daily and improve access to health care. This is a positive change for all within the healthcare team.

Dr. Fasano, I encourage you to support the proposed regulation changes.

Sincerely,



Julia K. Burfeind, PA-C, MHS

cc: Basil L. Merenda
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs
P.O. Box 2649
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Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
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