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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am the Chief Physician Assistant in the department of surgery at the Lankenau Hospital in suburban Philadelphia, and I am writing to you to support the development of osteopathic regulations that would allow Osteopathic Physician Assistants to write prescriptions. We have a large group of Physician Assistants that work together as a team. We have one PA who has an Osteopathic supervising physician. The other PA's have Allopathic supervising physicians, and have been able to write prescriptions for a number of years, and have done so very safely. The Osteopathic PA is unable to do so, and it can be a burden on our surgical team at times. It also creates confusion when he cannot write prescriptions, but the others can even though we all have the same training. It makes that Osteopathic PA less functional since he cannot perform this vital task. I believe that the regulations for the PA's under the Osteopathic Board of Medicine should be the same as the ones for the allopathic PA's so we are all treated equally, and there is less room for confusion.

I believe that Osteopathic physicians would be able to compete better in the medical marketplace if their PA's can write prescriptions just like the Allopathic PA's. I believe that the lack of Osteopathic regulations that allow our PA's to write prescriptions is a tremendous disadvantage. I also believe that the fact that Osteopathic physicians cannot delegate prescriptive authority to PA's makes them less employable especially in an institutional setting.

I feel that these regulations to allow Osteopathic PA's to write prescriptions will help Osteopathic physicians create more access to quality patient care. Each Osteopathic physician can then decide whether they want a PA and whether that PA can write prescriptions. I don't think they should be held back by strict regulations that prevent them from delegating prescriptive practice like the allopathic physicians.

Sincerely,

Robert Lowry, PA-C

Robert Lowry, PA-C
Chief PA
Dept. of Surgery
Lankenau Hospital

Cc: Basil L. Merenda, BPOA
Gov. Edward Rendell