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2644 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

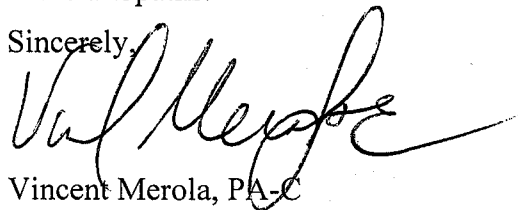
Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am a Cardiothoracic Surgery Physician Assistant 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 Physicians and Physician Assistants that work together as a team. 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. I am unable to do so, and it can be a burden on our surgical team at times. It also creates confusion when I cannot write prescriptions, but the others can even though we all have the same training. 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 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 these new regulations will allow my supervising physician and me to take better care of our patients in a more efficient manner.

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 allopaths.

Sincerely,



Vincent Merola, PA-C  
Dept. of Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Lankenau Hospital

VM:rl