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October 23, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Megan Rupp and I am a Physician Assistant (PA) student from Duquesne University and also serve as a Student-Director-at-Large for the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants (PSPA). I am writing you this letter to show my support for the proposed osteopathic prescribing regulations for physician assistants. PA's have been safely prescribing under the supervision of allopathic physicians for years now, and the new regulations would grant PA's the same privileges under osteopathic physicians. I believe that doctors of osteopathic medicine (DO's) deserve and should be given the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PA's as their MD colleagues. It is understood that PA's work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety and this legislation change would follow under that truth. The patients' access to care will be improved, as those PA's that are currently being supervised by DO's will now be able to practice to their fullest extent. In addition, if a PA is given prescriptive authority under a DO, the doctor may be more likely to hire a PA into his or her service and in turn waiting times will be decreased, there will be an increased availability of appointments, and this will also allow the physician more time to focus on complicated cases. In addition, hospitals may be more likely to hire DO's if they are able to supervise PA's with delegated prescriptive authority. I would also like to remind you that it will be the individual physician's decision as to whether his or her PA will prescribe (or not) and also what drugs the PA will be permitted to prescribe. Thank you for your time in reading this letter and attention to this matter. I hope that you consider supporting this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Megan Rupp  
Physician Assistant Student  
PSPA Student-Director-at-Large

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