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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

10.25.2007

Dear Dr. Fasano,

I'd like to weigh in on the issue of DO's conferring prescribing rights to Physician Assistants in Pennsylvania and the current proposal before the Osteopathic Board of Medicine. I wholeheartedly support this proposal, not only for the sake of the Physician Assistant profession, but also for that of the Osteopathic profession.

First and foremost, the regulations should be identical to those of the Allopathic Board to avoid confusion in clinical practice. The DO's have had fought hard to ensure and maintain equivalency with the allopaths for the entire history of the profession and to have this type of a difference sends the wrong message to patients and legislators. The evidence strongly suggests that prescription delegation permitted by the MD's is safe and effective, and thus should be extended within the osteopathic profession in the State.

In addition, PA's with prescription privileges will be more effective extenders for osteopathic physicians. A more efficient clinical practice allows for greater access to health care in the state, especially for the underserved, where DO's predominate.

The adoption of this proposal is imperative if the DO's want to effectively compete in the medical marketplace in Pennsylvania. Please do so as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Patrick Coughlin, PhD  
Professor  
PCOM