



PHILADELPHIA · COLLEGE · OF · OSTEOPATHIC · MEDICINE

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MATTHEW SCHURE, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

215-871-6800
215-871-6814 FAX
mschure@pcom.edu E-MAIL

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

October 29, 2007

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

Dear Dr. Fasano:


The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Board of Medicine has recently proposed regulations that would bring parity between the Commonwealth's osteopathic and allopathic physicians by authorizing osteopathic physicians to delegate prescriptions to physician assistants under their supervision. Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) wholeheartedly supports the proposed regulations.

A study conducted by the Area Health Education Center of Pennsylvania and Delaware on the origins of the Commonwealth's physician workforce states that, "The Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) is the medical school contributing the most physicians to both the rural Pennsylvania and the State-wide Pennsylvania physician workforce."¹ In order to maintain this significant achievement in today's health care climate, many of our state's osteopathic physicians will need to utilize the services of allied health providers including physician assistants. Ironically, under current regulations the graduates of PCOM's own program in Physician Assistant Studies concurrently render more assistance to allopathic physicians than to their osteopathic colleagues.

¹"The Pennsylvania Pipeline: From Medical Education to Practice", Pennsylvania/Delaware Area Health Education Center June 2006.

We, therefore, seek the adoption of the new regulations and urge that they be worded in precisely the same manner as allopathic regulations so as to avoid any confusion in clinical practice. Should the new regulations be adopted, we are highly confident that the already significant contribution of physician assistants and osteopathic physicians to our state will grow considerably.

Respectfully,


Matthew Schure, Ph.D.
President and CEO

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Cc: Mr. Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner
Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
The Honorable Edward G. Rendell

cc: Dept. of PA Studies