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October 30, 2007

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2007 NOV 14 PM 1:30

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Fasano:

I am a PA student at Saint Francis University and it has recently come to my attention that PA's do not have the legal right to prescribe under DO's in Pennsylvania. Thus, I am writing this letter to ask you to please consider giving PA's the same opportunity to write prescriptions under DO's as PA's have under MD's, for PA's have been safely prescribing under MD's for several years and our training is the same whether working under an MD or a DO. As a student, I spend 3-4 hours a week in Pharmacology class and several more on my own every week studying pharmacology and practicing writing prescriptions. Because of this, it is unlikely when I am done school that I will work for a DO if I do not have prescribing privileges. If PA's are given the same prescribing privileges under DO's as they have under MD's, PA's will be able to spend more time helping patients instead of tracking the DO to sign prescriptions. This will be fully utilizing PA's to their capability and training. Furthermore, there will be a lot less confusion in practices in which there are both MD's and DO's as supervising physicians if the regulations are the same for both.

Again, I only ask that you give PA's the opportunity to work under DO's to their fullest capability as they are able to do under MD's. Supervising DO's would still have the option to limit what PA's can prescribe, but as long as the law dictates that PA's cannot prescribe under DO's at all, then DO's are not given the latitude to be judicious with what their PA's can and cannot prescribe. If it is not agreed upon that PA's have enough training to safely write prescriptions, then please at least consider a compromise of giving PA's prescription writing rights after a number of years, such as three or four years, of actually working as a PA. This way, a DO can be more confident of a PA's prescription writing abilities, especially for DO's who have been working closely with their PA's and furthering their medical training.

Sincerely,

Sarah Vo, PA-S

Sarah Vo, PA-S

CC: Basil L. Merenda, Governor Edward G. Rendell