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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:

As a current Physician Assistant student, I have just recently learned of the prescribing differences between an M.D. and a D.O. As a PA student, this current regulation will affect my future career, especially in deciding the practice I'd like to work in. With the current regulations, once I become a PA, I'd certainly rather work for an M.D. where I can use my education to its fullest. I feel that PAs should have equal privileges with both types of physicians for a number of reasons. First, PAs have been safely prescribing prescriptions under M.D.s for many years now without any major issues. Also, PA training is the same no matter if the student decides to work for an M.D. or a D.O. Every student is trained to write prescriptions; therefore, there would be no change in PA training if there was a law passed to change this current regulation.

I also believe that changing this regulation would be beneficial for patients as well. The time spent to track down the D.O. is precious time that could be spent with patients. At the same time, the time D.O.s take to write out prescriptions for PA's patients could also be time spent with patients. Creating equal regulation between D.O.s and M.D.s would certainly provide more access to health care. These are just a few major reasons I believe PAs should have equal prescribing rights between the two types of physicians; however, there are many other reasons. As a future health-care provider, my goal is to do what's best for the patient and the practice and I personally believe that this regulation is another step to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

Nicole Buchanan, PA-S

Nicole Buchanan, PA-S

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