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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:

Since its conception, the role of a physician assistant has been a vital and integral part of the healthcare system. After providing patients with quality healthcare for nearly 30 years, PAs were granted prescribing rights in the 1990s and have since safely prescribed medications under MDs.

It is disgraceful to the Pennsylvania healthcare system that PAs are not able to exercise prescription rights under DOs. The training of a physician assistant is the same regardless of whether they practice under an MD or a DO. Why should there be different restrictions for each? CRNPs have collaborative agreements with physicians and can prescribe regardless of whether they work with a DO or MD. Why should it be different for a PA?

There is a school of thought that PAs would somehow "take the jobs" of DOs if they could prescribe medications, but in actuality the supervising physician ultimately has final say over what a PA can prescribe. It is also derogatory to DOs as their fellow colleagues do not give them the same privileges to supervise PAs as MDs.

Every patient who sits in a Pennsylvania waiting room will benefit when PAs can prescribe medications under a DO. The time taken by a PA to track down their supervising DO for a signature on a prescription would be better spend on treating patients, decreasing patient waiting time, and providing all Pennsylvania residents with better access to quality healthcare.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Elizabeth Claar, PA-S

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CC: Basil L. Merenda
Governor Edward G. Rendell