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October 30, 2007

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Fasano,

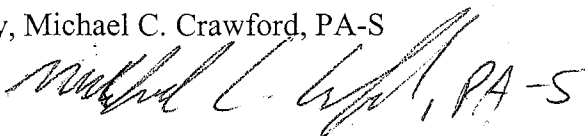
As a PA student I am writing to you about the current guidelines for PA prescription writing under osteopathic physicians. PA's have been safely prescribing under MD's for many years so it stands to reason that PA's are more than capable of safely prescribing under DO's. I feel that it is in the best interest of each patient for the PA's ability to be maximized in the clinical setting.

All PA's go through the same rigorous training regardless of whether or not they will work for an MD or a DO and I think that PA's should be afforded the same rights regardless of which type of physician they work for. At my PA program we do weekly exercises to teach us how to write prescriptions and currently at less than half way through my program I feel like I have a very good grasp on how to write prescriptions correctly and safely. One of the things that drew me to the field of the PA over other health care careers such as nursing was the ability for me to be so involved in the patient's care and write prescriptions. I do not feel that my qualifications as a PA would be maximized if I were not allowed to write prescriptions and for that reason I would not seek employment under a DO after I become a certified PA.

It has been my personal experience that currently the health care field is in much need of clinicians, MD's and DO's alike can greatly benefit their patients by bringing on PA's to help manage their practices. Employing more clinicians and letting them practice to the maximum extent decreases patient's waiting time, and increases patient's access to health care. For this reason I feel that DO's should encourage PA's to be part of the health care team and bring them on board to do everything that they have been trained to do in an attempt to promote the best health care possible because that is what medicine is all about. Moreover, MD's are given the right to regulate what their PA can do in the clinical setting and decide for themselves weather or not the PA can prescribe or not. I think it is disrespectful to DO's to not have the same rights and authority to manage their PA's.

As a PA student who will be practicing in less than two years, I will be paying much attention to these regulations and hope that you will consider revising the current guidelines to better serve each patient and better respect the ability of PA's. Thank you so much for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Michael C. Crawford, PA-S



CC: Basil L. Merenda  
Governor Edward G. Rendell