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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Dear Dr. Fasano:

I am writing in regards to the current law where PAs are unable to write prescriptions under DO's. As a fourth year PA student, I was unaware that my future colleagues were being restricted unfairly. Physician assistants have been safely prescribing for patients under MDs for many years. By restricting the PAs, patients must spend more time in the office as the physician assistant tracks down the DO to sign the prescriptions. If physician assistants were allowed to sign prescriptions under DOs, patients would receive more effective and efficient care. This would give patients greater access to healthcare as more PAs would work for DOs.

The regulations should be the same under MDs and DOs. Despite not being able to write prescriptions under DOs, PAs are trained the same and are fully capable of writing a prescription, especially if they are diagnosing and treating the patients themselves. Since the malpractice is the same, PAs should be allowed to complete the treatment of their patients by signing their own prescriptions. In addition, nurse practitioners can prescribe under both MDs and DOs despite not having great variations in training. Nurse practitioners also can practice without an MD or DO on site. This inequality is unwarranted and unnecessary.

As I graduate this May, I hope that I can freely look for a job without worrying if I can prescribe for my patients, who deserve efficient care. Changing this law is overdue and desperately needed.

Sincerely,


Jena L. Schellhammer, PA-S

CC: Basil L. Merenda
Governor Edward G Rendell