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October 30, 2007

I am aware that the legislation relative to physician delegation of prescriptive privileges to physician assistant is being reviewed.

The lack of prescriptive ability has been a hindrance to the most efficient use of physician assistant's in all aspects of medicine. Access of care will be improved, PA's will be more valuable to DO's, in turn improving patient care by reducing waiting times, increasing availability of appointments and allowing physicians more time to focus on complicated cases. Each physician will decide whether his/her PA will prescribe (or not) and also what drugs the PA will be permitted to prescribe.

Physician Assistants have been safely prescribing with the supervision of allopathic physicians for years- As always, PA's work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety. They report that the ability to prescribe has simplified their use of physician assistants in their practice without compromise of patient care. In addition, I have found that cross coverage with their practice is greatly hindered as a result of this legal issue.

I would like to strongly encourage your support of a change in the legislation allowing osteopathic physicians the ability to delegate prescriptive responsibility as needed in their practice to the physician assistants they supervise. These regulations should be worded exactly the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice.

Respectfully,

CC: Basil L. Merenda
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs
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Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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