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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Charles P. Fasano,

As a student at Gannon University, majoring in the Physician Assistant Program, I am writing this letter with regards to Physician Assistant's ability to prescribe medications under the supervision of a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine in Pennsylvania. I fully support the recently proposed regulations allowing Osteopathic physicians to delegate prescribing authority to the Physician Assistants they supervise.

Physician Assistant's have been safely prescribing medications under the supervision of Allopathic Physicians for numerous years. Regardless of who a Physician Assistant is practicing under, we receive the same education from one of more than 130 accredited Physician Assistant programs across the nation. These programs are rigorously evaluated by the ARC-PA to assure that each program meets their standards. Physician Assistant's, regardless who they are being supervised by, should therefore be treated with the same privileges. Presently however, Physician Assistants under the supervision of a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine are not provided the same medication prescribing privileges as the Physician Assistants, who practice under the supervision of Allopathic Physicians.

If Physician Assistant's were permitted to prescribe medications to their patients under the supervision of a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, there would be many great improvements to the Physician Assistant career. First, Physician Assistants would be in higher demand to Doctor's of Osteopathic Medicine. There would therefore be more job opportunities in Pennsylvania for Physician Assistant's, which would encourage more of students like myself to remain in the region. Also, these Physician Assistants would be more valuable to Doctor's of Osteopathic Medicine, because the efficiency of the primary care setting would increase. The amount of time in the waiting room would decrease with the help of Physician Assistant's, the availability of appointments would significantly increase, and the physician's ability to focus and spend more time on difficult and complicated cases would increase with the assistance provided by a Physician Assistant who can relieve some of the medication prescribing burdens Osteopathic Physicians now bear.

Physician Assistant's should be permitted to prescribe medications under supervision of a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine for reasons that also focus on patient care and safety.. First, Physician Assistant's would be more effective in providing patient care, because they will be practicing to the full extent of their training. Without these prescriptive rights, Physician Assistant's are held back when caring for a patient. Additionally, Doctor's of Osteopathic Medicine should have the same ability as their Allopathic Physician colleagues to delegate the prescriptive authority to their Physician Assistant's so that the same level of care is given to both the Osteopathic and Allopathic treated patient. By alleviating some of the medication prescribing burden more time and focused patient care could be provided to each patient by the Osteopathic physician.

Lastly both the physician and his assistant would be taking an active role in the patient's medication profile increasing the patient's safety as two providers would eliminate sources of medication prescribing errors.

When Physician Assistant's are finally permitted to prescribe medications under the supervision of a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, the regulations of this law should be worded exactly the same as their fellow colleagues Allopathic Physician's in order to avoid any confusion in clinical practice. Physician Assistant's have been through numerous years of school and should be trusted with the right to prescribe medications to their patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexis M. Antoszewski". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Alexis Antoszewski