

2644

RECEIVED

November 1, 2007

2007 NOV 16 PM 3:06

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed regulations to allow osteopathic physicians to delegate prescribing authority to the physician assistants they supervise. Physician assistants under the supervision of allopathic physicians have been safely prescribing for years.

As a current physician assistant student, this is of particular concern to me. If physician assistants under the supervision of an osteopathic physician have prescriptive rights, then those physician assistants would be more valuable. There would be more job opportunities available in Pennsylvania. This will not only benefit me, but it will also improve patient access to care. More physician assistants in a practice will reduce waiting times, increase the availability of appointments, and allow physicians time to focus on more complicated cases. Osteopathic physicians would also become more valuable to hospitals and practices because of their ability to supervise physician assistants with prescriptive authority. If prescriptive rights are delegated to physician assistants under the supervision of osteopathic physicians, it would improve career opportunities and overall patient care.

Both of the aforementioned points would also potentially slow the "brain drain" of well educated students from Pennsylvania to other areas. As a resident of New York, I always thought that I would likely move back to my hometown after graduation. I believe that if I knew there were more opportunities for me in Pennsylvania, I would be more apt to stay here. I would be more inclined to stay in the state if I knew that I could work to my full potential. I will receive the same training whether I am supervised by an osteopathic physician or an allopathic physician. I would like to know that I will have to authority to prescribe if I am trained to do so.

I strongly urge support these changes and regulations. The benefits are indisputable. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Christine E Peck
Gannon University PA Student

cc: Basil L. Merenda
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2659

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