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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

11/2/07

Ms. Merenda,

I am writing you this letter as a Physician Assistant Student who is very supportive of regulation change in the governance of Physician Assistants working in the service of Osteopathic Physicians. Personally, I would be more inclined to stay in Pennsylvania upon graduation if I were granted similar rights in working for an Osteopathic or Allopathic Physician.

I am aware of several Osteopathic Physicians who would truly benefit from (and express interest in) having a Physician Assistant. They are hesitant to utilize the services of a Physician Assistant, however, due to the fact that PA's cannot prescribe medications under their supervision. This caveat severely limits the increase in access to care of patients who are enrolled in the practice of an Osteopathic Physician utilizing a Physician Assistant as compared to their Allopathic counterparts (which are currently reaping the benefits of utilizing PAs to their fullest potential).

As a student freely capable of seeking employment in a number of states, I would be more inclined to work with an Osteopathic Physician in Pennsylvania if I were able to exercise the full extent of my knowledge, including prescribing privileges. I urge you to amend current regulations and allow all Physicians in Pennsylvania the ability to increase access to care by employing a Physician Assistant able to practice to their fullest extent.

Most Sincerely,



Bryan L. Rall PA-S, Gannon University

CC: Charles P. Fasano D.O., Governor Edward Rendell