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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Fasano,

As a fourth year student enrolled in the Physician Assistant program at Gannon University, I am very excited to be graduating, and even more excited to be one step closer to becoming a PA. I am originally from Cleveland, OH; however, I chose to attend school in Pennsylvania to obtain my degree. Upon graduation and completion of the Physician Assistant program I will have a tough choice to make as to whether I go back home to Ohio to work, or stay in Pennsylvania.

It is extremely unfortunate that PAs practicing in the state of Pennsylvania can not prescribe under osteopathic physicians. Many of the surrounding states of Pennsylvania, such as Ohio and New York, do allow osteopathic prescription privileges. This creates a predicament for any student, such as myself, making a decision as to where the best job locations will be in the future. If matters are not changed, the already present brain drain taking place in Pennsylvania will only continue as PAs will be forced to seek employment elsewhere. A change in delegation of prescription privileges would create potential job opportunities for PAs in Pennsylvania, as well as giving upcoming students an incentive to stay in the state.

In addition to PAs being able to work to their fullest potential in the state of Pennsylvania, a change in prescription privileges would also make DOs more valuable in many aspects of the health care system. Hospitals would be more likely to hire a DO if they were able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive rights. Patients would also benefit from these changes, as PAs lower the cost of health care in many settings.

Upon completion of the Physician Assistant program at Gannon University I will be faced with many important decisions about the future. I hope that one of them can be made easier by equalizing Pennsylvania as an employment opportunity for upcoming PA students. I thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this important matter of delegated prescription authority, and I hope that, with your help, passage of the proposed regulations will be timely and without problems.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Opaluch PA-S

Rebecca Opaluch PA-S
Gannon University

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

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