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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

NOV 7 2007

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

Dear Mr. Merenda:

I am a practicing physician assistant in an emergency room in Southern Chester County. I see many patients each day, both autonomously and in collaboration with my supervising physicians. My ability to prescribe medications allows me to do my job more efficiently, which leads to more effective patient care.

The above situation is made possible because I work for an allopathic physician, which means that in Pennsylvania I am allowed to write prescriptions. However, physician assistants who work for an osteopathic physician are not allowed to do so in Pennsylvania. Considering that D.O.'s and M.D.'s have essentially the same training, and that physician assistants have had prescribing privileges under allopathic physicians for many years without problems, there is no reason for physician assistants who work for D.O.'s to be prohibited from writing prescriptions.

This proposed change would allow many positive changes including the following:

- Allow physician assistants to practice medicine in the full scope allowed
- Allow the D.O. to be more efficient within their practice
- Make D.O.'s more likely to hire a physician assistant
- Make large medical practices who employ physician assistants more likely to hire a D.O.

I urge you to approve and/or endorse any legislation which makes this change possible for the improvement of the practice of medicine in the state of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Sotirios Goudouvas, PA-C