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ELLIOTT BILOFSKY, D.O., F.A.O.C.O.

Professional Corporation
BOARD CERTIFIED ADULT AND PEDIATRIC

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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November 6, 2007

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

Dear Sir:

This letter is in regards to the proposed osteopathic prescribing regulations for physician assistants. I stand in full support of these regulations as a physician assistant working under the supervision of an osteopathic physician.

I currently work in Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Facial Plastic surgery under the direction of Elliott Bilofsky, D.O. We work closely each day to provide outstanding care to the patients of our area. Together we serve a very rural, underserved area, with our practice providing the only ENT care available in three counties.


If physician assistants were given prescribing privileges under osteopathic physicians, our patients would have greatly improved access to care. I could provide a full service to our patients beyond their evaluation to include instituting appropriate therapy. As you can understand, this would allow both my supervising physician and I to help more of those in need of our services, decrease the wait time patients incur prior to receiving care, and allow for my supervising physician to devote more time to those difficult or complicated cases.

I want to convey to you and your colleagues that the physician-PA model is not one that promotes complete independence of the physician assistant, but rather supervised autonomy. My supervising physician and I work closely when it comes to medical decision making, as he constantly reviews my patient interactions and continues to educate me further in our specialty. In no way would prescribing privileges break down the close interaction of physician and physician assistant on which this profession was founded.

In closing, I ask that you consider these prescribing regulations so that we can remove barriers to care that exist, especially in rural environments. I point out that physician assistants have safely prescribed and dispensed medicines for years under the supervision

of allopathic physicians. I strongly support the regulations to mirror those of allopathic physician assistants to avoid any confusion on the part of the physician assistant, physician, or pharmacist.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana M. Knopp PA-C". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "D.M.K." and "PA-C" clearly visible.

Dana M. Knopp, MPAS, PA-C

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

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