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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Charles Fasano:

As a PA student in Pennsylvania, I am writing due to my concerns about the pending prescriptive rights of physician assistants who work for osteopathic physicians. I think it would benefit many people if these physician assistants had the right to prescribe prescriptions to their patients. Obviously it would benefit the PA at hand, but also the DO they are working for and the medical community in general.

Why do allopathic physicians have the power to delegate prescriptive authority on their PAs and osteopathic do not? There shouldn't be a difference. DOs should have the same rights as MDs because all PAs have the same training so why are some restrained from prescribing and not others? The supervising physician still has to look over the charts, so it is basically the same in both positions. Just because it is a different way of practicing medicine doesn't mean that the PAs should have lesser rights.

Physician assistants have been safely prescribing for many years, and why hold them back from their duties? They can better take care of their patients if they can eliminate the waiting time by just prescribing on their own rather than having to wait for the doctor to come in. All PAs should have equal rights; therefore regulations for PAs working under osteopathic physicians should be the same as those working under allopathic physicians. Not only will this make PAs more useful, but also DOs. More hospitals will want to hire them if they have the right to allow PAs to prescribe.

As a Pennsylvania resident who wants to practice as a PA in her home state, it would mean a lot if I knew that I would have prescriptive rights no matter what kind of doctor I work for. I would not want something as minor as this to cause to me to possibly have to move far away or even to a different state.

So, I think it would benefit the state, PAs, DOs, and the medical field in general if PAs in Pennsylvania could perform to the best of their ability. I don't see why physicians should be treated differently because in the end they are all licensed to practice medicine. I think this is a simple problem that can be solved with a simple answer. PAs should be allowed, no matter who they work for, to practice to their full ability. As I mentioned this ability would benefit many people, but also myself and many of my classmates. I don't think anyone would want the

number of PAs in Pennsylvania to decline due to the fact that they cannot prescribe in all practice settings.

Sincerely,
Jacki Davison
PA Student at Gannon University

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacki Davison".

Basil Merenda
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs
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