

November 6, 2007

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Charles P. Fasano, D.O.
Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine
P.O. Box 2649,
Harrisburg, PA 171105-2649

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

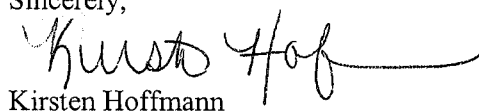
Dear Dr. Charles P. Fasano-

I am writing today about the lack of prescription privileges allocated to Physician Assistants practicing in Pennsylvania while working under the direct supervision of Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine. I am a Physician Assistant student at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania. Our staff provides an unrivaled curriculum that fully prepares us students to write prescriptions under MDs and DOs alike. Physician Assistants have been awarded prescription privileges by MDs in Pennsylvania for years due to the fact that the training is more than adequate, and the supervision provided by the allopaths ensures safety and efficacy. By not allowing Physician Assistants in Pennsylvania to write prescriptions, Doctors of Osteopathic medicine are causing themselves a great disadvantage; if Physician Assistants they supervised could provide the full extent of their knowledge and abilities, reduced patient load would thus open more spaces for patients. By allowing for the identical prescription privileges already set forth for Pennsylvania Physician Assistants by the MDs, hospitals and clinics alike would find DOs to be more useful and efficient on staff so rules would not change as shifts change between a supervising MD and DO.

Truly, the most important point is that I, as a Physician Assistant student in Pennsylvania, am less inclined to accept a job practicing under a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine in this state. Many of my classmates feel much the same. The lack of promising, hard working, compassionate individuals that could assume these positions will cause nothing but another disadvantage to the practicing Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine searching for competent Physician Assistants with which to work. Respectable and highly qualified Physician Assistants will want to prove their worth and value by practicing elsewhere contributing to the "Brain Drain" in Pennsylvania.

Please contemplate these points I have made because I know that my fellow classmates and I are working extremely hard to further our knowledge in patient care and become well-rounded human beings. It is paramount to our future that we, as Certified Physician Assistants receive prescription privileges under the direct supervision of Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Hoffmann

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, Pennsylvania 17120