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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

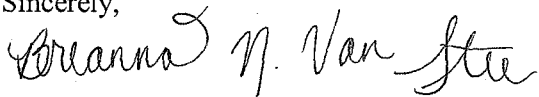
Dear Dr. Charles P. Fasano:

I am writing in reference to prescription privileges for Physician Assistants under Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine in Pennsylvania. I am a student at Gannon University in Erie PA, and I am enrolled in a 5-year master of Physician Assistant program. When I complete school, I may be supervised by a D.O. or an M.D., but that does not change the training and schooling that I am presently receiving. As a student, allowing Physician Assistant prescription privileges under Osteopathic Physicians would play a large role in my desire to stay in Pennsylvania and practice my fullest capabilities. This will open up more jobs in the community and enhance my desire to stay here as well. Also, as a student, I feel the regulations for Physician Assistants should be worded the same whether working under an osteopath or an allopath to avoid any confusion in the clinical practice.

I believe that Physician Assistants will be more valuable to D.Os if they had prescriptive authority. Physician Assistants will continue to be supervised by a D.O. or an M.D. to ensure patient safety, whether they have prescription privileges or not. Giving this privilege to PA's will decrease waiting times, increase availability of appointments and improve access to care because the D.O. will have more time to focus on more complicated cases, rather than just prescribing medications.

Please take the time to consider my thoughts on this issue. As a student, it is very important to me, as well as my classmates, that we obtain prescription privileges while working under a D.O. Our skills and knowledge should not only be limited to working under an allopath; we should be able to prove what we have learned and practiced in the classroom and bring it into real life situations no matter who we are working under. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Breanna N. VanStee

CC:

Basil L. Merenda  
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