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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Charles P. Fasano:

I'm writing this letter to address the delegation of prescribing authority for all physician assistants in Pennsylvania. PAs have been safely prescribing with the supervision of allopathic physicians for years and have done so with physician supervision to ensure patient safety. PAs receive the same training whether or not they will be supervised by an osteopathic physician or an allopathic physician, and DOs should have the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their MD colleagues. The regulations should also be worded exactly the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice.

Access to care will be improved because PAs who are supervised by DOs will be able to practice to their full extent of their training. Also PAs will be more valuable to DOs with prescriptive authority because more practices may hire PAs. This will in turn improve access to care by reducing waiting times, increasing availability of appointments, and allowing the physician time to focus on more complicated cases. DOs will also be more valuable to patients, hospitals, and practices if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority.

Currently there is a "Brain Drain" of well-educated graduate PAs leaving the state because of the lack of delegated prescribing authority under DOs. I am currently a student in the PA program at Gannon University in Erie, P, and if PAs are delegated to prescribe and there is an improvement of access of care, there is the potential of job openings for PAs in Pennsylvania and as a student/graduate I would remain in Pennsylvania to practice and I could work to my fullest potential.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jessica Schmidt PA-S

CC: Basil L. Merenda
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs
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