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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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

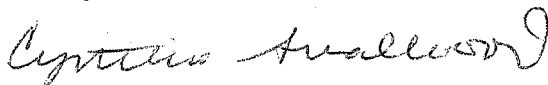
Dear Dr. Fasano:

I am writing in support of the proposed osteopathic prescribing regulations for physician assistants. I am in the didactic phase of the physician assistant program at Kings College. As an upcoming PA I would like the stress that in order for me to care for patients to my full potential it would be best for me to be able to prescribe the same in all fields of medicine. I am more likely practice in the state of Pennsylvania with the same osteopathic regulations being in place as in other states. Also, osteopathic physicians may be more likely to hire a PA when they are given prescriptive authority. This will in turn remove some barriers to care. There would be reduced waiting times and increased availability of appointments. Plus, the physician will have more time to focus on more complicated cases.

Physician assistants have been safely prescribing under the supervision of allopathic physicians for years and working with physician supervision to ensure patients safety. The regulations should be worded the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice. Osteopathic physicians should be given the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their MD colleagues. With this change in place hospitals or practices would be more likely to hire osteopathic physicians if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority. In the end it would still be up to the physician to decide whether his/her PA will prescribe (or not) and also what drugs the PA will be permitted to prescribe.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Smallwood PA-S

CC: Basil L. Merenda and Governor Edward G. Rendell