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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Rebecca L. Cooper  
134 Woodlawn Ave  
Mountain Top, PA 18707

Basil L. Merenda  
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs  
P.O. Box 2649,  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Mr. Basil L. Merenda:

November 7, 2007

I am writing to you to show my support for the proposed osteopathic prescribing regulations for physician assistants (PAs) practicing under the supervision of osteopathic physicians. This piece of legislature has a great impact on my future, for I soon will be graduating from an accredited physician's assistant program.

As you are aware, PAs have had the ability to diagnose, treat and prescribe medications under the direct supervision of allopathic physicians for several years now. This has certainly been very beneficial to the medical community and to the physicians; allowing patients to be seen in a timelier manner, and giving physicians the ability to devote more time to each individual patient. Unfortunately, osteopathic physicians have not been afforded these same rights. I believe it is crucial that the proposed legislation allowing osteopaths the ability to delegate prescriptive authority over PAs become equal to that of allopathic physicians and be implemented as soon as possible.

Currently, many PAs are employed in critical care settings and walk in clinics where it's essential that they be able to write prescriptions for Schedule II narcotics under direct supervision of an allopathic physician. PAs have under allopathic physician supervision been safely prescribing these substances for years. It is vital that we extend these same rights to osteopathic physicians so that the PAs working under them can fully carry out and realize the full extent of their training. In addition, it would stand to reason that areas of healthcare that require administration of medications such as family practice, hospitals, oncology, and surgery will be more apt to hire osteopathic physicians that have delegated prescriptive authority over PAs.

This would certainly be a beneficial situation for all parties involved, and would greatly enhance our ability to provide the highest quality of care to the public. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca L. Cooper

*Rebecca L. Cooper*