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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

November 7, 2007

Dear Dr. Fasano,

Hi, my name is Amanda Roche. I am currently a freshman at Gannon University in the Physician Assistant Program. Last week our Intro to the PA Profession professor notified us that the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Board of Medicine recently proposed regulations to allow osteopathic physicians to delegate prescriptions to PAs they supervise, just as allopathic physicians currently do. As an up and coming PA, this was great news. Getting these privileges would be very beneficial to the medical world and should definitely be allowed.

PAs have been safely prescribing with the supervision of allopathic physicians (MDs) for years. They have always worked well with physician supervision to ensure patient safety. I'm sure that PAs will work equally as well with the supervision of an osteopathic physician.

PAs receive the same training whether they will be supervised by a DO or by an MD. Their education throughout college will equally qualify them to be supervised by both. Osteopathic physicians should have the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their MD colleagues.

PAs will be more valuable to DOs with prescriptive authority, meaning more practices can hire a PA. This will benefit all colleagues and patients by reducing waiting times, increasing availability of appointments, and allowing the physician more time to focus on more complicated cases. This will improve the access to medical care, which is the main focus of our job. The DOs will actually be more valuable to patients, hospitals, and practices if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority.

As a student in the PA program, hoping to find a job quickly after graduation, there will be more potential job openings in Penna. I would be more inclined to stay in the state if I could work to my fullest potential. I would love to be able to stay in state with a great career, raising a family. So many well-educated graduates are forced to leave the state for better opportunities.

Overall being able to prescribe under a DO will be a great help to everyone. More patients will be able to be cared for and have a more personal visit. The visits will be less rushed and more focused.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to e-mail me at roche006@gannon.edu. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Amanda Roche

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