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November 7, 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 have been supervising PAs for many years and have always found them to be an asset to my practice. The only down side has been the inability of PAs to prescribe in this state. PAs have been safely prescribing with the supervision of allopathic physicians (MDs) for years in Pennsylvania—as always, PAs work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety. PAs have been prescribing in other states for many years without regard to their supervising physician being a DO or MD.

PAs receive the same training whether they will be supervised by a DO or an MD. They are prepared with pharmacology courses and those PAs that work for an MD have been prescribing for years. Osteopathic physicians (DOs) should have the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their MD colleagues.

The regulations should be worded exactly the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice and they have been time tested and proven. Access to care will be improved because PAs who are supervised by DOs will be able to practice to the full extent of their training. PAs will be more valuable to DOs with prescriptive authority, meaning more practices may hire a PA. 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. Each physician will decide whether his/her PA will prescribe (or not) and also what drugs the PA will be permitted to prescribe. The law would be in effect to help provide better access to care as well as improve existing care to the patients.

Sincerely,



Robert Roeshman, DO  
cc: Basil L. Merenda  
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs  
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