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West Allegheny Healthcare
An Affiliate of Heritage Valley Health System
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

November 9, 2007

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

Dear Charles P. Fasano, D.O.:

We are writing on behalf of Pennsylvania's osteopathic physicians and the physician assistants (PA's) they supervise. We fully support the proposed osteopathic prescribing regulations for physician assistants, as PA's have been safely prescribing under the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. It has been our personal experience that this is an efficient and effective utilization of PA's in practice. We believe that the regulations should be worded identically to the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice, especially if M.D.'s and D.O.'s practice cooperatively.

PA's work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety, and to improve patient access to care. By giving osteopathic physicians the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PA's as their M.D. colleagues, their PA's will be able to practice to the full extent of their training. Each individual physician will have the authority to decide whether (or not) his/her PA will prescribe and which medications will be permitted to be prescribed.


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 due to reduced waiting times, increased availability of appointments, and allow the physician time to focus on more complicated cases. Additionally, hospitals and practices (including ours) may be more likely to hire osteopathic physicians if they are able to supervise PA's with delegated prescriptive authority.

Thank you for your serious consideration in this matter. We hope that this legislation will be passed to bring better healthcare to Pennsylvania residents.

Sincerely,


Todd A. McCaslin, M.D.


Marlynn Singleton, M.D.


Lauren M. DeTurco, PA-C

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

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120