

November 9, 2007

Dear Basil L. Merenda Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs,

I am a recent graduate of DeSales University, and am now employed in an office with osteopathic physicians. Many of my classmates are employed by allopathic physicians, and thus have prescription privileges. As a student we were all taught pharmacology. This was woven throughout the curriculum, from pharmacology class to cases where we made a diagnosis and a treatment plan including a written "script" for the simulated patient. My classmates and I all received the same training; however, because I am working for osteopathic physicians, I do not have the same privileges as my former classmates.

Physician assistants have been providing safe and effective care for their patients under allopathic physicians for many years. With script privileges, these physician assistants can work to their full capability and training.

Script privileges would allow physician assistants to be of further assistance to osteopathic physicians, thus expanding the horizon for more offices to employ physician assistants. Additionally, these PAs will make health care more accessible to patients. The physician assistant will make the office more patient-friendly and help reduce the waiting time for the patient. This will allow the osteopathic physician more flexibility and time to take care of the more complicated patients. For example, in the office where I am now employed we see many allergy patients. Checking with my supervising physician every time I want to prescribe Singulair or Allegra takes away valuable time that he could be spending with a new patient, or one newly diagnosed with cancer.

I look forward to the day when I will be able to use all of my training to provide quality care to patients.

Sincerely,

Amy Willette PA-C

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