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November 12, 2007

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

Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am writing to you in support of the proposed regulations for delegating prescriptive authority to Physician Assistants (PAs) supervised by osteopathic physicians. I hold a Masters Degree of Physician Assistant Studies in Endocrinology working clinically at Metabolic Disease Associates, Inc in Erie, PA and am an Assistant Professor in the Gannon University Physician Assistant Department in Erie.

I have been a practicing PA in Pennsylvania for over 24 years and am licensed as an allopathic and osteopathic PA having been supervised by both MD and DO physicians in my career. During this time, I can attest to the competency of all my supervising physicians in delegating duties and prescriptive authority, in the case of my allopathic supervising physicians. I have seen no difference in their ability to supervise me or in my ability to take directives from them, regardless of their specialty or medical degree. For this reason, I support the proposed regulations, but maintain the osteopathic regulations be worded **exactly** the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid confusion in clinical practice. Osteopathic physicians should be given the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PAs as their allopathic colleagues. It will then be the choice of the individual osteopathic physician to determine whether to delegate that authority and which drugs the PA will be permitted to prescribe.

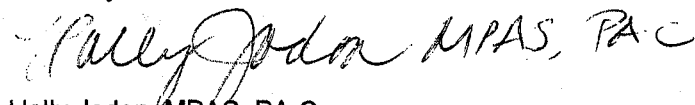
These regulations will benefit patients by improving access to care as the PAs currently supervised by Osteopathic Physicians will be able to practice to the full extent of their training.

These regulations will further benefit patients along with graduating PA Students since Osteopathic Physicians may be more likely to hire a PA when they are given prescriptive authority. This will, in turn, remove barriers to care due to reduced waiting times; increased availability of appointments, and allow the physician time to focus on more complicated cases.

These regulations will benefit Osteopathic Physicians as Hospitals and Long-term Facilities may be more likely to hire/utilize them if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority.

For these reasons, I fully support regulations for delegating prescriptive authority to Physician Assistants (PAs) supervised by osteopathic physicians and support the osteopathic regulations being worded **exactly** the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid confusion in clinical practice.

Sincerely,



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