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November 12, 2007

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

Dear Dr. Fasano:

I am a physician assistant in Pennsylvania writing to express my support for the proposal before the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine that would allow physician assistants who are supervised by osteopathic physicians the ability to legally prescribe and dispense medications to patients. Although I am currently supervised by an allopathic physician, I believe my colleagues who work with osteopathic physicians should be entitled to the same medical privileges.

I believe that extending the prescribing privilege to all physician assistants will benefit both patients and physicians. With the ability to prescribe, the physician would not need to be physically present in order to fully serve patients; the physician assistant would be able to examine, diagnose, and prescribe with less dependence on the supervisor. In turn, the physician would have increased flexibility regarding scheduling patient appointments and office hours.

Since all physician assistant programs have similar requirements for pharmacology education, the implementation of this policy would not be unreasonable. Physician assistants who currently prescribe have demonstrated their ability to do so safely. The same standards would be upheld by all physician assistants, as they all have similar training and skills.

In closing, I believe that there is no negative aspect in allowing prescriptive authority to physician assistants who are supervised by osteopathic physicians. Allowing this authority would provide uniformity to all physician assistants in Pennsylvania. In the interest of the profession, it would confirm and promote the capabilities of physician assistants in all medical disciplines. I truly hope that prescribing privileges will be extended to all physician assistants.

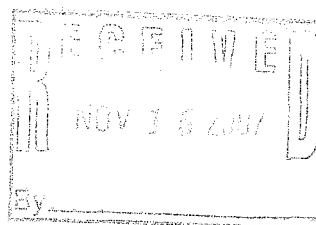
Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Straw PA-C

Jeffrey L. Straw, 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, Pennsylvania 17120



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