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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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
BOARD OF PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Dr. Fasano:

Proposed Prescribing Regulations for PA.s

I, as a practicing D.O. in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Alum Bank to be specific, am in complete support of the proposed prescribing regulations for the Physician Assistant This has been a long time incoming and is long over due.

The newly proposed regulation should be worded exactly the same as the Allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in the clinical practices of medicine. As you well know, Physician Assistants have been safely prescribing under the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. As for me, we have a very rural practice and I depend on my Physician Assistants to carry-on when I am away or working in another entity of our hospital. It is vital that these regulations be accepted. Osteopathic physicians should be given the exact and same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their PA's as their M.D. colleagues.

Access to care will be greatly improved because the PA's who are currently supervised by DO's will be able to practice to the full extent of their training. Remember PA's work with the physician Supervisor to ensure patient safety, they do not hang out their own shingle; *they are PArtners in Health Care.*

Many of my colleague D.O.'s, will actually hire more PA's when they are given prescriptive authority. As you can understand, this will:

- 1 Reduce waiting times in private practice and the emergency departments.
2. Appointments will be much more readily available allowing patients to have better access to health care.

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3 The D.O. will have much more time to focus on extremely complicated cases which in turn will provide superior care.

Our hospitals will hire more Osteopathic Physicians if they are able to supervise PA's with delegated prescriptive authority. I, as a practicing DO will be able to decide whether my PA's will be permitted to prescribe and what drugs we will utilize.

In our Rural Health Clinic setting, I have Two PAs that have 47 years experience with a myriad of talents. This law needs to be implemented for the care of my patients. Again, this is long over due and is desperately needed. Please see that the passage of this law is expedited without delay.

I am yours for better health care in Bedford, Pennsylvania,



**Craig H. Fockler, D.O.
Medical Director, Alum Bank Community Health Center
Chief of Staff, Windber Medical Center**



**Ronald P. Fetsko, P.A.-C.,
Clinic Director**



Steven Burk, P.A.-C.

cc:

Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs

Governor Edward G. Rendell