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ASSOCIATES

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2644

November 13, 2007

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

Dear Dr. Fasano,

In my thirteen years as a practicing Physician Assistant, I have had the opportunity to work closely and collaboratively with allopathic and osteopathic physicians. Consistent with the true and intended vision provided for by the Pennsylvania Physician Assistant Practice Act, I, along with many Physician Assistants, have long been safely prescribing medications under the supervision of allopathic physicians. By virtue of strict training requirements and demonstrated standards of excellence, a Physician Assistant working collaboratively with an allopath, will be clinically indistinguishable from one working in collaboration with an osteopath.

Osteopathic physicians should have the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their Physician Assistant, as their allopathic colleagues. This will most directly allow not only for the fullest collaboration of practice, but to maximally utilize the training and experience of the Physician Assistant.

Great time and effort resulted in the current allopathic prescription regulations for Physician Assistants. Evident also is the successful impact of those regulations upon patient care. It would be prudent to construct osteopathic prescription regulations that are essentially identical to the allopathic regulations, to avoid any confusion in clinical practice but also to expedite this most important enhancement to the Physician Assistant role within the osteopathic community.

Within the scope of such regulations, an osteopath should have the ability to exercise personal discretion as the scope of prescriptive privilege, if any, for a Physician Assistant working under their direction. Certainly, however, the broader the scope of prescription privilege, the more evident the enhancement of patient care in a given care area.

The cost of healthcare is at a critical high. Access to quality care has been made all the more difficult for the un-insured as well as the under-insured. It is imperative that Physician Assistants are utilized to the fullest extent of their training and the creation of prescriptive regulations, of the type described, are an important step in controlling healthcare costs as well as catalyzing access to cost-effective healthcare.

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I would ask that you direct your greatest consideration to this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew R. Miller', with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

Matthew R, Miller D.Sc., PA-C

cc: Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

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