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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
405 HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am an Assistant Professor at Duquesne University Physician Assistant Program in Pittsburgh PA. I am also a part time practicing PA in Rheumatology at the University of Pittsburgh. I am writing in support of the proposed regulations for delegated prescriptive authority for physician assistants under the supervision of osteopathic physicians. These proposed changes will directly affect me and the future practice of my students.

With the evolving healthcare climate it is important to focus on patient access to care. With these proposed changes, access will be improved because the PAs who are currently supervised by osteopathic physicians will be able to practice to the full extent of their training. I have been a practicing PA since 1983. Working in a hospital group practice which may employ both allopathic and osteopathic physician providers it is imperative that these regulations be worded exactly the same in order to avoid confusion in clinical practice. The allopathic physicians that I work for decide what drugs I am permitted to prescribe. The proposed regulations for delegated prescriptive authority would not interfere with the dependant practitioner role I have with the osteopathic physicians in our practice.

As a PA educator for the past 10 years, these regulations will greatly influence the future job market for my students. Hospitals and practices will be more likely to hire osteopathic physicians if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority. Additionally osteopathic physicians will be more likely to hire a PA if they are able to fully utilize the PAs they employ.

I urge the Board to adopt these proposed changes. Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Jean Sekhon MMS, PA-C

cc
Commissioner Basil L. Merenda
Governor Edward G. Rendell