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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 writing on behalf of the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants in support of the proposed regulations for delegated prescriptive authority for physician assistants under the supervision of osteopathic physicians which were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 20, 2007. I am the current President of the PSPA and serve on the House of Delegates for the American Academy of Physician Assistants. The PSPA represents the interests of many physician assistants in Pennsylvania. I have had the opportunity to work with PAs from other states as well. The provisions represented in the regulations are in line with language adopted in other states.

The goals and objectives of the Society are to enhance quality medical care to the people of Pennsylvania. The proposed regulations would enable us to improve patient access to care. Physician assistants who are currently supervised by osteopathic physicians will be able to practice to the full extent of their training without interference of the dependent practitioner role. Osteopathic physician may be more likely to hire a PA when they are given delegated prescriptive authority. This will in turn remove barrier to care due to reduced waiting times and increased availability of appointments.

There are many physician assistants who work in mixed group practices with both allopathic and osteopathic physicians. It is imperative that the osteopathic prescribing regulations for physician assistants are worded exactly the same as the allopathic regulations in order to avoid confusion in clinical practice. Osteopathic physicians will also be able to decide whether his/her PA will prescribe and what drugs they will be permitted to prescribe in a similar manner that allopathic physicians delegate to the PAs that they supervise.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the PSPA, I urge the Board to adopt these proposed changes. Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Jean Sekhon MMS, PA-C
President, Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants

cc
Commissioner Basil L. Merenda
Governor Edward G. Rendell