

The Westmoreland Digestive Disorders Group, LLC.

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Charles P. Fasano, D.O.
Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine
P.O. Box 2649
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2007 NOV 14 AM 9:14
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COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Fasano,

My name is Jason Thomas. I am a physician assistant from Latrobe, PA. I am currently practicing with a three physician gastroenterology group in Greensburg, PA (Westmoreland Digestive Disorders Group). Our group includes three excellent physicians, two of which are osteopathic physicians. We have a fourth physician (also an osteopathic physician) who will be joining us in July of 2008.

I am writing to you today to urge you and your colleagues to consider allowing prescribing authority to PA's practicing under the primary supervision of osteopathic physicians. Throughout my 3 years practicing with both an M.D. and our D.O.'s, I have found no difference whatsoever with the level of care that we can provide as a team. Physician assistants clearly have a well-defined role in working WITH osteopathic physicians and NOT in any manner that would be detrimental to the ongoing success of D.O.'s. Together as a team, myself and all of our physicians work to provide quality, compassionate health care to those in need. It would be a great advancement for both PA's and D.O.'s if prescribing authority would be allowed for PA's under the supervision of osteopathic physicians. Furthermore, it would bring consistency to our practice, which would further enhance the already positive working relationship between myself and my osteopathic supervising physicians.

It has been a great pleasure to be associated with professional, knowledgeable osteopathic physicians. I hope that in the near future, PA's and D.O.'s will be able to move forward establishing similar, if not the same type of roles that PA's have with M.D.'s. In today's increasing demand for health care services, it is essential that we adapt to the needs of our society. Allowing prescribing authority to PA's supervised by D.O.'s would be a tremendous step forward in our practice to meet the needs of our patients.

I would like to sincerely thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and I wish you good health and profound appreciation for your role in advancing health care in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



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