

2644

November 16, 2007

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

RECEIVED

2007 NOV 28 PM 1:52

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Fasano:

I am currently a 4th-year Physician Assistant student at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. I am writing to you asking for your support regarding prescription privileges for PAs who work under the supervision of an osteopathic physician. This issue will directly influence and affect my opportunities upon graduation in August 2009, so I am very hopeful that the proposed regulations will be implemented before then.

As I am sure you are aware, the role of the PA is that of a team member with the physician. Together they work for patient safety and health, but PAs also help by allowing the physician time to focus on more complicated cases. By allowing PAs in osteopathic practice to prescribe medications, the D.O. will not be required to intervene in every prescription needed. Of course, they still will retain the responsibility of directing and supervising the PAs about which drugs can be prescribed without their involvement, but the D.O will ultimately become more valuable to his patients and the practice.

The regulations for a PA prescribing under an osteopathic physician should be worded the same as for a PA prescribing under an allopathic physician. Because the training is the same regardless, this will allow the PA to easily acclimate to any office and eliminate confusion in practices where both D.O.s and M.D.s act as supervisors. The proposal would also directly improve career satisfaction for PAs because they would be involved in complete patient care and would be working to the full extent of their capabilities.

My training at Duquesne for becoming a physician assistant includes several courses in pharmacology, so I am anxious to see the outcome of this proposal. I would really like to be able to utilize all aspects of my education as a clinician. The opportunity to have prescribing privileges will influence my career path, and I do not want to discount osteopathic medicine on that account. Please support the proposal, not just for PAs and osteopathic physicians, but for the good of the medical community as a whole.

Sincerely,



Laura L. Little
Physician Assistant student
Duquesne University

Cc: Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs
Governor Edward G. Rendell

