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Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

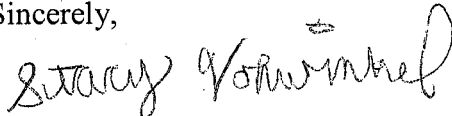
Dear Charles,

As a student of the Physician Assistant program at Gannon University, I believe the topic of prescribing is something of great importance for the future of my graduating class. The fact that PA's have been prescribing with supervision of allopathic physicians for a long period of time is reinforcing to us all in medicine that patient safety is number one. Whether a PA is going to be supervised by a DO or MD they get the same training, so the privilege of prescribing should be honored equally. I believe that osteopathic physicians should be able to have the same privilege as their MD colleagues and allow their PA's to be able to prescribe. I also believe that the regulations should mirror those of allopathic regulations.

If these privileges are given then PA's supervised by DO's will be able to give better care to their patients. DO practices will be able to hire more PA's due to the fact that they have prescribing privileges. These prescribing privileges are not only an advantage to the PA, but also to the DO since they will be more appealing to hospitals and patients. As a result of this, for me as a student I would be more inclined to stay in Pennsylvania to work, since I would be able to use my fullest abilities. As long as the prescribing privileges are given, the physician can always decide if he/she wants to let the PA prescribe drugs or not.

Overall, I believe that as a future PA in the working field, I would find it very appealing to have prescribing privileges under a DO, and the advantages above show that this move would be greatly beneficial!

Sincerely,



Stacy Vohwinkel

CC: Basil L. Merenda
Commissioner, Bureau of Professional & Occupational Affairs
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