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Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

RE: Prescriptive authority for PA's under the supervision of a D.O.

Dr. Fasano,

I am writing this letter to ask for your consideration in allowing Physician Assistants the authority to write prescriptions while under the supervision of a Doctor of Osteopathic medicine.

This issue is increasingly important due to the fact that many physicians are leaving the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for practices in surrounding states. This change to the regulations needs to be strongly considered for the benefit of the citizens of this state. Having a team of doctors and mid level practitioners allows for greater patient access and decreases the need for residents to travel further and further away from home for the basic needs of medical care.

For many years now, PA's have proven themselves worthy of the responsibility to prescribe medications. Many allopathic doctors employ them and they thrive in this environment and the training we receive in school supports this function. This privilege benefits everyone, most importantly, the citizens of this state. DO's would then be able to employ physician assistants as a fully functioning extender of care in an effort to enhance access to patient care.

As it stands now, only under an MD can a PA function to the full extent of his/her abilities and training. I would like to see that the wording for this be changed to mirror the regulations for allopathic doctors. This would be valuable in avoiding any confusion in clinical practices.

I for one will not practice in this state if I am not allowed the privilege to function to the full extent of my education and training. I am sure that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not want to be educational provider only to see those practitioners go elsewhere. This would be a loss, not to the practitioners but to the citizens.

Sincerely,



David Pope PA-Student