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November 16, 2007

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

Dear Charles P. Fasano D.O.,

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

As a physician assistant student in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I strongly support the proposed osteopathic prescribing legislation. I believe that osteopathic physicians have the same medical abilities as their allopathic colleagues, thus their rights as practitioners should include the ability to delegate prescriptive authority to physician assistants. DOs have been fighting for equal rights with MDs for years, and it would seem that this would be another area of equality that DOs would strive for. Physician Assistants have been safely prescribing with the supervision of MDs for years and osteopathic physicians are more than capable of providing this supervision.

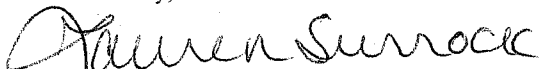
By passing this regulation, DOs and PAs would become more valuable in the clinical setting; patient access to appropriate care would be expanded, waiting times would be decreased, and complicated cases would be able to be seen by the appropriate practitioner while other more simple cases could be handled by PAs.

The regulation would be worded in such a way that any confusion in clinical practice would be avoided and each osteopathic physician would have the ultimate decision as to whether or not a physician assistant in their practice would be allowed to prescribe, what specific drugs they would be allowed to prescribe, and what exactly that PA's role in the practice would be.

As a prospective practitioner in Pennsylvania, the ability to prescribe under osteopathic physicians will greatly impact the number and type of job opportunities available to me, and it will significantly influence my desire to seek employment within the state.

I ask you to consider the weight this legislation has on the State's health care system and what a positive outcome it could have. There is no need for bias or jealousy between professions at this time, because ultimately we are all here for our patients and we want to provide them with the best available care - I believe this is obtainable by providing osteopathic physicians with prescriptive delegation privileges over physician assistants.

Sincerely,


Lauren Surrock

CC - Basil L. Merenda

CC - Governor Edward G. Rendell

