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The Offices of

Dr. William J. O'Brien, III

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Dear Dr. Fasano,

I am writing in support of the proposed regulations published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 20, 2007. As a physician assistant (PA) working for an Osteopathic Physician (DO), I am limited in my practice due to the lack of prescribing authority. I believe that Osteopathic Physicians should have the same ability to delegate prescriptive authority to their physician assistants as their allopathic (MD) colleagues. Physician assistants have been safely prescribing with the supervision of allopathic physicians for years. PAs continue, as always, to work with physician supervision to ensure patient safety. PAs receive the same training whether they will be supervised by a DO or an MD.

Access to care will be improved because PAs who are supervised by DOs will be able to practice to the full extent of their training. PAs will be more valuable to DOs with prescriptive authority, meaning more practices may hire a PA. This will in turn improve access to care by reducing waiting times, increasing availability of appointments, and allowing the physician more time to focus on more complicated cases. DOs will be more valuable to patients, hospitals, and practices if they are able to supervise PAs with delegated prescriptive authority.

Each physician will decide whether his/her PA will prescribe (or not) and also what drugs the PA will be permitted to prescribe. The regulations should be worded exactly the same as the allopathic regulations to avoid any confusion in clinical practice.

Pennsylvania is the only state that does not allow PAs supervised by DOs to prescribe medication. I fully support the proposed regulations to allow osteopathic physicians to delegate prescriptive duties to the PAs they supervise.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hibbs, PA-C

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