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**BAUGHMAN FAMILY MEDICINE**  
**2200 DOVER RD.**  
**HARRISBURG, PA 17112**  
**717-657-2111**

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Joseph C. Gallagher, Jr., D.O.  
Chairman, Osteopathic Board of Medicine  
P.O. Box 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Dr. Gallagher,

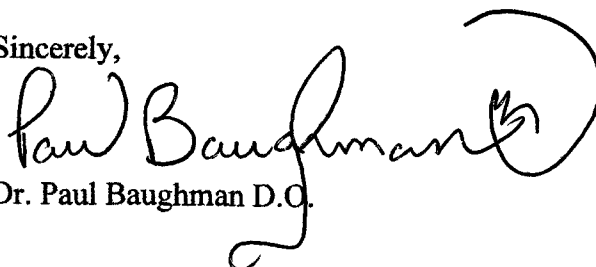
As the owner of Baughman Family Medicine, I employ Physician Assistants. As you know, Physician Assistants (PA's) are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PA's conduct physical exams, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, diagnose illness, and assist in surgery. What is lacking here is the ability to treat illness. Physician assistants with the same education and background have been safely treating patients by writing prescriptions under MD's for years. PA's are trained in intensive education programs and are certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Physician Assistant (NCCPA). You license them to practice medicine under your board. However, your lack of prescriptive rights holds back their productivity and mine. Not to mention, the confusion it creates for patients.

As a family practice physician, in Harrisburg, PA, my patients and my practice would benefit if my physician assistants' were delegated prescriptive rights. It would increase the amount of patients we could see everyday. It would allow better patient access to quality healthcare.

At my practice, I treat a large amount of Medicaid patients. My practice is one of the few providers in the Harrisburg area that are accepting new Medicaid. There is a huge lack of quality medical care for this population. This population would benefit from the continuation of care that prescriptive rights would bring. By providing prescriptive rights for my physician assistants, you would greatly increase the medical care available for these patients.

Please consider approving the prescriptive rights to physician assistants licensed under your board. I am confident that by doing this you will increase the availability of comprehensive medical care as well as decrease confusion. You will also allow osteopathic physician to be more productive in their practices.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Paul Baughman D.O.

